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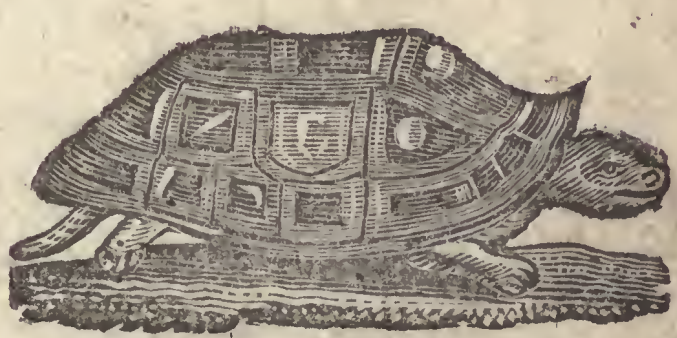
FRONTISPIECE.

TRAVELS

IN

NORTH AMERICA.



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TRAVELS

IN

NORTH AMERICA.

IT matters not how fond a man may be of travelling about; perhaps, there is not one who has returned home after a long absence, without feeling a sensible satisfaction. In every spot he sees an old acquaintance, whilst he recognizes, with pleasure, every face that was familiar to him before his departure, even though the individual himself was a perfect stranger. He even remarks, with interest, (if he had been an inhabitant of a city,) the improvements that a few years, or perhaps months, have produced—the new buildings that have been erected, the old ones that have been thrown down, the streets that have been enlarged, and even the houses that have changed their possessors. Some of those persons with whom he was formerly acquainted he indeed misses in his daily walks, and, on enquiry, he is told they are dead. Others, having

embarked in different pursuits, have shifted their residence ; and others still, whom he never before saw, occupy their places. Some have sunk in the world by unforeseen distress; many, by imprudently living beyond their means ; and some, by the exposure of their dishonest practices; whilst, on the other hand, it is no less true than satisfactory to the industrious, that worldly success has seldom failed to attend on those who are not wanting to themselves. It is not surprising, therefore, that George Philips, after an absence of nearly two years in South America, whither commercial business had first led him, and curiosity had afterwards detained him, thought a long time must elapse before he would again exchange the comforts of his native city for the hardships and the privations, necessarily to be undergone, when a man travels in a foreign country, particularly if it be but partly civilized. He had visited the most remarkable places in that vast Continent, and though the barbarism of the inland tribes had prevented him from traversing the middle districts, he had gained either from books, or from those who had themselves travelled over the country, a very adequate knowledge of the rest. He had seen the far-famed mountains of Cotopaxi and Chimborazo, the ranges of the mighty Andes, the Rivers Amazon, the Orinoco, the La Plata, the valuable silver mines of Potosi ; and having thus gratified his curiosity, he resolved to devote

himself steadily to business, perfectly aware how much he owed to the unremitting kindness of his partners, for with the greatest readiness they had dispensed with his personal assistance in the counting-house, during the whole period of his absence.

However, it has been often said, that to know one's self is the most difficult of all sciences, and it will not be wondered at, that Philips was mistaken, when he thought he would never again feel a desire of visiting foreign lands. For two years after his return, he continued to bestow his unremitting attention to the business of the firm in which he was a partner. Active and intelligent as he was naturally, travelling had opened his mind and sharpened his understanding, and he was deservedly esteemed excellently well informed upon commercial affairs; his partners also, were active in business, and as every transaction was governed by the most unshaken integrity, it may be well believed that they prospered. At the end of this period, however, Philips again felt the wish of enlarging his sphere of observation, by visiting the same quarter of the world, but not the same scenes which he had before seen; for whereas he had formerly explored the region of South America, he now felt the most eager desire to examine that of North America, and as much as possible not only to become acquainted with the United States, but with the manners of the Indian tribes which lie scattered through its more westerly districts.

It was not with Philips as with some giddy men, who no sooner entertain a wish than they are impatient to gratify it. If prudence had forbidden it, he could have given up his plan without regret, and remained at home, but the fact was, no such consideration existed to check his purpose. His two partners were fully competent to carry on the business during his absence, and he therefore saw no obstacle to the indulgence of his inclination. A vessel which belonged to one of his commercial friends, was about to sail for Barbadoes, and after touching at several of the other West India Islands, to sail to Vera Cruz, a considerable sea port on the eastern coast of New Spain. "In this way," thought he, as he traced his future course upon the map, "I shall gain a knowledge of that numerous cluster of islands which are called the West Indies, and having landed in the kingdom of New Spain, my acquaintance with North America will be resumed almost at the Isthmus of Panama, which divides it from South America, and should the Almighty grant me health, I may then shape my course Northwards, according to circumstances."

He was too upright, however, to expect the same share in the commercial profits of the house, which would have been justly due to him had he continued to give his personal assistance to the management of its affairs. His proposal was an equitable one, and therefore acceded to,

after some friendly altercation, in which one side desired to act with generosity, and the other with a due regard to justice. It was this, that during his absence he should be what is called an anonymous partner, drawing annually a fair and liberal per centage on his capital, with a clear understanding, that on his return he should take up the same situation in the firm from which he was now for a time to absent himself. His expedition would most probably occupy him more than two years ; but he not only engaged to transmit regular accounts of his proceedings, whenever opportunity should occur, but to mention in these letters what course he intended to take, so that in case any circumstance should require his presence in Europe, he might receive the earliest intimation, and in addition he was to look after some sums of money due to the firm, by persons residing in St. Domingo, besides making any commercial speculation which circumstances might render advisable.

It was on the last day of the old year that Philips embarked at Cork, in the South of Ireland, on board his friend's vessel, and it may well be supposed that, being of a serious turn of mind, he was impressed with this coincidence between the period of the year, and the circumstances of his situation. He was leaving behind the year that was drawing to a close, and the friends and connexions with whom his early life had been spent ; he was about to enter upon

another year, and upon a new scene, and it might be he would never see the close of that year, or return to the scenes he was quitting. Earnestly, therefore, did he offer up his prayers to God, that he would guide and counsel him, that he would protect him from secret and open danger, and finally receive him into his kingdom.

Philips was a religious man; his parents had early imbued him with a fondness for devotion, and though some ungodly persons might be found to make light of it, the reader will not think the worse of him, that, about to absent himself for so long a period, and to pass a part of his time at least, in the *remote* and *imperfectly* explored parts of North America, he reflected with pain that he was voluntarily withdrawing himself from those places where Christians can offer up in a house of worship their united prayers. He resolved, however, to do all that he could to supply his loss; he brought with him a small portable copy of the Holy Scriptures, in order that he might read therein, and be warned from it of his duty, both to Him whose revealed will it contained, and to his fellow creatures, whom it commanded him to love as himself.

When the vessel set sail, the weather was clear and mild, but soon afterwards they had a succession of storms and fogs, which obscured the sun, and gave Philips every moment the apprehension that the vessel in which he was a passenger, would run aboard some other, and either

founder or be materially damaged. Other fear than this Philips had not, for he had now been often enough at sea to feel all a seaman's security, when he is sailing in what they term a good sea-boat; and in truth, the hard gales they met on the passage, sufficiently testified the truth of the technical expression—that she *can live in all weathers.* He knew that the Captain was an experienced seaman, and his crew steady, and thus felt no alarm at the immense mountains of waves which sometimes struck the ship, and sometimes hung curling over the sides, as if ready to burst and pour a deluge upon the deck. At one period, her top-masts, yards, and different parts of the rigging were carried away, her sails were split, her quarter boards stove in; every thing that was loose on deck washed away; yet, in an incredibly short time, the hardy sailors had repaired the damage, and the good ship was holding on her course, as if nothing adverse had befallen her.

In the first voyage that our traveller had made across the Atlantic, he had observed with wonder the effect of the trade wind, which, at a certain latitude, always blows from East to West, but it now appeared more striking to him, perhaps from the boisterous weather with which he contrasted it. For three weeks the vessel had been tossed about at the mercy of the waves, when, by degrees the wind began to subside, the sea became calm and smooth as a lake, and

the Captain announced that they had passed the stormy latitude, and would shortly feel the trade wind. In this expectation every preparation was made—the top-gallant-masts were set, the sails made ready, and an awning prepared for the quarter deck, all which indicated to Philips, that steady breezes, warm regions, and pleasant sailing, were reckoned on. The crew were also, according to custom, set to clean, paint, and adorn the vessel ; or, as the seamen call it, to give her a new jacket, in order that she might appear to advantage in the harbours of the West Indian Islands, and in this all the sailors have a degree of pride—every one wishing that *his* vessel may become the object of admiration. Indeed it amused Philips to see how far this spirit was carried: from head to stem not a plank-rope, mast, or yard, ring, bolt, or even nail, escaped—every thing received a full-dress coat of paint, or was made new with a black varnish of tar. The barrels, the buckets, the handle of the pump, were painted ; and, that nothing should be omitted, even the inside of the water-buckets received a coating.

The change was delightful, for the vessel lay upon the water without motion, and this calm continued for two days, until every one began to wish for a little wind to carry them on their voyage. It was on the 23d January, that Philips was observing from the deck the smooth sea

around, when looking towards the Eastern horizon, he saw a vessel moving towards him with full sails; a few moments after, the sky darkened, a gentle ripple spread over the hitherto still and smooth surface of the water, and a breeze came on so steady, that almost without being sensible of any motion, the vessel advanced at the rate of five miles an hour. In a moment every hand was busy in preparing and setting every possible sail, for it was the trade-wind, and experience told the seaman that once arrived in this latitude, all his labour is over, the vessel scuds constantly before the wind. The sails remain spread night and day, no change is necessary, occasional bracing only is required, and in this way she will proceed from 160 to 200 knots (or miles) in twenty-four hours.

It was on the 10th of February, that "land" was shouted from the mast-head; but it was the practised eye of a sailor alone that could have discerned it. Philips looked in vain for it, and when at length he discerned what was said to be Barbadoes, it looked more like a cloud forming a long dark streak a little above the horizon. This streak grew gradually more and more distinct, till breaking, as the vessel advanced, it became unequal, assumed the form of mountains, and at length the land became distinctly visible.

The island of Barbadoes, which our traveller was now approaching, is one of a great many islands, called the West Indies, which lie scat-

tered through the wide sea, separating the Continents of North and South America, and washing the Eastern side of the narrow isthmus of land that joins them. As they are too numerous for mention, it will be sufficient to say, that the chief of them sweep in a circular line to the north-west, from the north-eastern part of South America, near the river Orinoco; they are, Trinidad, Tobago, Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Barbadoes, Martinique, Dominica, Guadaloupe, Antigua, St. Christopher, St. Bartholomew, extending through nearly six hundred miles of latitude. From the most northerly and westerly of this circular range of islands, Philips found that a straight line running westward would pass through the large islands of Porto Rico, St. Domingo, and Jamaica, and that to the north of St. Domingo, a chain of small islands five hundred in number, (many of which, however, are only rocks and cliffs, reached as far as the coast of Florida, on the south coast of North America, thus establishing a chain, as it were, between the north-eastern extremity of South America, and the south-eastern Province of North America. Though the name of West Indian Islands, however, is given to the whole of those composing this vast range, some of which have been enumerated are known by other denominations; that numerous cluster, for example, last mentioned, is sometimes called the Bahamas, whilst the several islands from Trinidad

to Dominica, were denominated the Windward Islands by the Spaniards, who discovered them about three hundred years back, and thence northward to Porto Rico, the Leeward Islands, from the circumstance of their position with respect to those who were sailing with a trade wind from Spain westward.

It was night when they made the entrance of the harbour of Bridgetown, the capital of the Island of Barbadoes, and as a smart breeze was blowing from the land, they were obliged to lie to till morning. This, however, which was at first considered a disappointment, gave Philips an opportunity of admiring the beautiful scenery which the day-light presented to him.—The harbour is a fine open bay, capable of containing five hundred ships: many ships were riding at anchor, and a number of boats and small craft were sailing to and fro. Through the shipping at the bottom of the bay, were seen numbers of neat cottages, surrounded by tropical trees, remarkable for the richness of their foliage. On the South West stands the town, and beyond it verdant fields of sugar, coffee, and cotton, country houses, clusters of Negroes' huts, wind-mills and sugar-mills; in short, nothing appeared wanting to complete the beauty of the landscape.

The island of Barbadoes is about twenty-one miles in length, and fourteen in breadth, most of it being under cultivation; the population consists

of about 20,000 whites and people of colour, and 60,000 negroes—these last are slaves, who are the property of their masters, and work without wages, but it is only necessary to see the indolent manner in which they labour, to be convinced that it is not only cruel, but unwise, to exact this kind of service from our fellow-creatures; for, as Philips remarked, half the number of hired labourers would easily have performed as much work in a given time as a dozen of these oppressed beings.

Bridgetown, the capital, contains about 1200 houses, built mostly of brick, and ornamented with balconies; the streets are wide, and the neighbouring low grounds, which were formerly often overflowed by the spring tides, being drained, the town has in consequence become more healthy, but like all the rest of the West India Islands, it is subject to hurricanes, of which we in Ireland can have no idea. These hurricanes are a sudden and violent storm of wind, rain, thunder, and lightning, attended with a swelling of the sea, and sometimes with an earthquake. Whole fields of sugar-canes are whirled into the air, and scattered over the country. The strongest trees of the forest are torn up by the roots, and driven about like stubble, the wind-mills are swept away in a moment, and even the huge copper-boilers and stills, of several hundreds weight, are wrenched from the ground and battered to pieces; even the houses

afford no protection, the roofs being torn off at one blast, whilst the rain causes torrents, which rise several feet and rush in like a flood upon them.

It is now above forty years since the most violent of them happened, and yet so great was the damage done by it, that the town has not since recovered from it—four thousand of the inhabitants perished ; and so great was the force of the wind, that it not only blew down the strongest walls, but even lifted some heavy cannon off the ramparts, and carried them some yards distance, and the injury done to property was computed at not less than one million three hundred thousand pounds.

As the vessel in which Philips was, had but a a short time to stay at Barbadoes, he thought it better to live aboard, making, however, daily excursions in all directions ; and in this way he had frequent opportunities of observing the habits of the people. On one of these occasions he found that it was the custom to bring the animals alive to the market, to be killed after the different joints were sold, and that the meat is often slaughtered, dressed, and brought to table in the course of a few hours. He was not long, indeed, without perceiving, that the extreme heat of the weather rendered it very difficult to keep meat, and yet it always revolted him to eat of the animal which he knew to have lived so short a time before. But there was no subject which possessed

so painful an interest as the treatment of the slaves. These, the reader will understand, are the unhappy Africans, who, having been torn away from their native country by traders who deal in this unchristian traffic, and carried to the West Indies and the United States of America, are sold to masters, who oblige them to work without wages, and flog them with the greatest cruelty for the slightest fault, oftentimes indeed, without cause. Frequently did he see them labouring in the plantations, under the directions of an overseer, who, with a whip, kept them to their work. It is true, this inhuman traffic is no longer sanctioned by Great Britain, and that any of her subjects engaging in it are liable to the severest punishment. It is also true, that the laws of the United States prohibit it, and that some other European powers have promised to follow the example of England by abolishing it, but such a measure could only prevent any further importation of slaves from Africa, it could not go so far as to emancipate those who had been purchased, some at the cost of £60, £70 and £80. and therefore in their persons, as well as in the persons of their children born before the passing of the act, slavery still continues. What right, thought he, has one man over another, to make him thus toil like a beast of burden without wages? Are we not all come from the same parents? Have we not a common nature? Is not God the father of

us all? It is said that these unfortunate beings are ignorant; well, let *us* instruct them, and they will become better—but let us not treat them as if they were not men. It is said also that they are sold to Europeans by their own countrymen, who take them prisoners in their wars with one another, and that it is the custom of their country to make slaves of such; but the fact is, that it is the white men who engage in this trade, who encourage those uncivilized people to go to war, and this must continue so long as we continue to purchase their captives.

A few days after he made these reflections, he happened to meet an African funeral, and though he saw in it much to reprove, he was far too sensible not to ascribe the blame to their owners who did not teach them better. The corpse was conveyed in a neat small hearse, drawn by one horse. Six boys, twelve men, and forty-eight women walked behind in pairs, but not indeed as mourners. Instead of sorrow, or even seriousness, they followed talking and laughing, jumping, and sporting with each other in high festivity. "Such," thought Philips, "is the conduct of these ignorant people, who think of death, perhaps, only as a release from slavery; but what excuse shall I make for my own countrymen, Christians, who know that death calls the soul to judgment, and that in a short time their summons will also come, and who, instead

of being serious at so awful a thought, make the death chamber a scene of riot, drunkenness, and jollity, and sometimes follow the remains of the departed to the grave more indecently than even these unenlightened slaves."

When the procession arrived at the gate of the burying ground, the corpse was taken from the hearse and borne by eight negroes, not upon their shoulders, but upon four white napkins placed under the coffin. The body was carried directly to the grave, and though Philips observed they said no prayers over it, it was laid down and covered with the earth with a decency and decorum that might well be an example to our own countrymen, the clay being first put into a basket, and then gently strewed over it, during the whole of which time an old negro woman continued singing a wild African song. When the funeral was over, every one gathered round the grave, and, as if addressing the deceased, called aloud "Good night, good bye —me come soon to you;" then each scattering a handful of clay over the grave, they all dispersed and went away.

In Barbadoes, the land is cultivated in open fields; hedges, walls, and all the usual fences seem to be unknown, nor can the eye discover any distinct separation of the different estates; and although the whole face of the country is for the most part well cultivated, it has a naked and uninteresting appearance from the want of

wood, of which there is not a sufficiency to be ornamental to the country. Anxious, during his short stay at Barbadoes, to see whatever the Island afforded worthy of a traveller's notice, Philips made frequent excursions of some miles through the country; the usual conveyance on these occasions being a sort of single horse-chaise, with a leather roof like the head of a gig. Nothing was to him more revolting than the custom of being attended by slaves on foot, who run by the side of these carriages, and whose duty it is to keep up with the horse the whole way, in order to be ready to hold the rein wherever the rider chooses to alight or stop; but we in this country can have no idea of the hardships these poor people undergo—and all this they endure under a burning sun, which even the rich and great, with all their luxuries and means of self-indulgence, find almost insupportable.

In Barbadoes, as well as throughout the West Indies, the rains make the only distinction of the seasons—the trees are green the whole year round; they have no cold, no frosts, no snows, and but rarely some hail. The storms of hail, however, are very violent when they happen, and the hail-stones very large and violent. Lying, as these Islands do, so near the middle parts of the earth, the heat would be intolerable if the sea-breeze, rising gradually each day as the sun advances, did not blow in

upon them from the sea and refresh the air.—On the other hand, as the night advances, a breeze begins to blow smartly from the land, and it is a most curious circumstance that it proceeds as it were from the centre of each island in all directions at once. To this account of the climate it may be added, that the rains are by no means so moderate as with us. Our *heaviest* rains are but dews comparatively. They are rather like floods of water poured out from the clouds with prodigious impetuosity—the rivers rise in a few hours, new rivers and lakes are formed, and in a short time all the low country is under water.

Though the West India Islands produce coffee in great abundance, together with the plant from which cotton is obtained, and the root called ginger, the great article of West India commerce is sugar. This is the juice extracted from the sugar-cane, by bruising them in vast mills, and then boiling it to a proper thickness. This, when suffered to cool gradually, is the brown sugar of this country. From the syrup which is found at the bottom of the coolers after the sugar is made, and which is called molasses, a strong spirit called rum is distilled, and from the scummings of the sugar an inferior one is produced. The tops of the canes, and also the leaves which grow on the joints, make very good food for their cattle, and the refuse of the canes after grinding serves for fuel, so that no part of this excellent plant is without its use.

In the West India Islands an estate or plantation is not valued by the number of acres of which it consists, but rather by the stock the owner has on it: the windmills, the boiling, cooling, and distilling-houses, the buying and supporting a suitable number of slaves and cattle. The price of a male negro on his first arrival, used to be in Barbadoes from £30 to £36, women and boys about £5 less; but the importation of fresh slaves into the island being now prohibited by law, there are instances of a single negro expert at business, bringing 150 guineas.—The negroes are supported at a very cheap rate; to each family the Owner appropriates a small portion of land, allowing them two days in the week to cultivate it. All the rest of the charge consists in a cap, a shirt, a pair of breeches, and a blanket and the profit of their labour yields from £10 to £12 annually.

During Philips' stay in Barbadoes, the weather was several times sufficiently clear to enable him to see the island of St. Vincent, which lies about the same distance west of Bridgetown, that Holyhead is from Dublin, that is about sixty miles; but he was not able to gratify his wish of visiting it. It is true, the trade-wind would have brought him there in a few hours, but the period of the vessel's departure in which he had come out, was too uncertain to allow his absenting himself. He found numbers, however, able to answer all his inquiries, and soon ascertained

that it was something larger than Barbadoes and extremely fruitful, resembling the other islands in the commodities it produces, and consisting of a mixed population of whites and negroes. But the subject on which he was most desirous to be informed was the volcanic eruptions which took place in the year 1812, for he had heard even in Ireland, of the ashes thrown out by the burning mountain having fallen on the decks of vessels which were above 150 miles from the island; and fortunately having found one who had been actually on the spot at the time, from him obtained a particular description of the catastrophe.

The mountain is the loftiest of a chain which runs through the island; it had been sending out quantities of smoke during the preceding year; the apprehension, however, was not so great as to prevent repeated visits to the place whence it proceeded. "I was," said Philips' informant, "along with a party who ascended to it on the 26th April, the day before the eruption, and found it one of the most beautiful scenes I ever beheld. About twelve hundred feet from the level of the sea, and at the south side of the mountain, I saw a circular opening about a mile and a half in circumference, and five hundred feet deep. Looking down into this huge bowl, I beheld a conical hill, three hundred feet high, and sixty yards in diameter, richly adorned with shrubs and vines half way up, and the

remainder covered over with the fine powder of sulphur to the top. From several cracks in this cone white smoke was rising, now and then tinged with a slight bluish flame; the sides of the bowl were also covered with evergreens and several beautiful plants, and at opposite sides of the cone, and still within the bowl, were two pieces of water, one quite pure, the other strongly tasting of sulphur. Nothing, one would think could have added to its beauty, and yet we found the effect improved by several blackbirds that had built their nests there, and were singing most melodiously whilst we looked over into the opening. Such was the Sulphur Mountain when we visited it; but four hours had not elapsed when the scene was completely changed. At noon on the following day, a dreadful crash was heard at a great distance, and a vast volume of thick black smoke like that from a glass-house, burst forth at once, showering down sand, earth, and ashes on all around it, covering every thing with light grey-coloured dust. At night the brim of the crater or bowl was like red-hot iron, but it was not till the 30th April that the flames burst forth. During this whole interval, however, it continued to emit ashes, and in such quantities, that it was evident the fire was struggling for a vent and labouring to throw off the load which kept it down. Never shall I forget the effect produced by the rising sun, as its beams fell on that

morning on the thick curling smoke which shot up to a great height. I had seen the loftiest Andes, whose tops are covered with snow ; I had also seen Cotopaxi, but this could only give a faint idea of the fleecy whiteness and brilliancy of this awful column of smoke and clouds. In the afternoon, the noise was incessant, and resembled the approach of thunder still nearer and nearer ; there was also a trembling in the air, which affected us with an indescribable sensation—but there was as yet no earthquake. The natives, however, who were settled at the foot of the mountain became alarmed, they left their houses and cattle, and fled towards the town ; the birds fell to the ground overpowered with showers of ashes, unable to keep themselves on the wing; the cattle were starving for want of food, as not a blade of grass or a leaf was now to be found; and perhaps it will not appear the least remarkable of these awful appearances, that the sea, though very much discoloured, was quite tranquil and did not appear in any manner to share in the agitation of the land. It was just seven o'clock in the evening when the flame rose like a pyramid from the crater through the mass of smoke, and the rolling of the thunder became more awful and deafening, and soon after the lava appeared boiling up over the sides and flowing down the mountain like a torrent of fire. After running for a short distance, it met with a rising ground which stopped its course for a few minutes, but at length re-

ceiving fresh supplies from behind, it parted and drove on, forming the figure of V in grand illumination. In four hours this stream of fire reached the sea, as we observed from the reflection of the fire, and the hissing noise it made as it rolled into the water. At three o'clock the following morning the first earthquake was felt, and this was succeeded by a shower of stones which fell on the roofs of the houses and threatened to bury us under them. We sought shelter in the cellars, under rocks, or any where, for every place was nearly the same; and the poor negroes, flying from their huts for safety, were knocked down or wounded, and many of them killed in the open air. Had these stones been heavy in proportion to their size, but few could have escaped death, for they were in many places as large as a man's head, but thanks be to Providence they were very light—being what is called Pumice. This dreadful shower lasted upwards of an hour, and was again succeeded by cinders from three until six o'clock in the morning. Earthquake followed earthquake at short intervals, the surface of the ground being agitated like water which is shaken in a bowl." "We know," continued he, "that these awful catastrophes arise from natural causes, from water rushing in great quantities into those depths where sulphur and iron are contained; and it is also well known that they have the most beneficial results, defending the

earth from, or else checking the violence of earthquakes, which, but for those eruptions, would in the neighbourhood of volcanos always cause the most calamitous effects; but most impressively do we learn from them the Omnipotence of that BEING, who rules the universe, and whilst he permits such dreadful visitations sometimes to occur, retains them within bounds and prescribes the extent to which they shall proceed.

The vessel in which Philips was a passenger, was now ready to sail for St. Domingo, and he gladly obeyed the Captain's summons to prepare for his departure. He had now nothing to detain him, having fully gratified his curiosity, but the duty of taking leave of the friends from whom he had received kindness. Before twelve hours had elapsed, the vessel had hove her anchor, and was sailing towards her destination under a steady breeze. In fact, there was no course more direct than that on which he was now proceeding, for the trade-winds constantly blow in one direction, and all that is necessary for ships steering westward is to spread the sails, and set the helm to the due point.

During the voyage, and indeed whilst he remained at Barbadoes, he had not been incurious; he endeavoured to gain all the information possible concerning those other islands which it was not in his power to visit, and it was fortunate for him he could not have applied to a more

competent person than the Captain, who had been many years in the West India Trade, and knew every one of them he said as well as he knew the parts of his own ship. "As you have been so long in these seas (said Philips) I suppose you can give me some account of the present state of Domingo, to which we are going?" "That I can," repliedthe Captain, "for I was on the spot at the time the revolution broke out in 1791. At that period, the whole island, which is nearly four hundred miles long, and in some places one hundred and fifty broad, was divided between France and Spain—that portion belonging to the latter being of the two much the more extensive as well as fertile. The population amounted to about 150,000 whites and people of colour, and half-a-million of negro slaves. So great a disproportion, you may imagine, was dangerous, and it proved so; for the blacks, irritated I believe by cruel treatment, rose upon their masters and rendered the whole French part of the Island a scene of massacre and devastation. The enormities committed on both sides during the war that ensued were great, but at last the whites were expelled, and a regular Government was formed of the blacks, who chose one of their own number as their Chief. Soon after this they quarrelled among themselves, but there is no use in detailing their dissensions. When you land you will both hear and see many proofs of the wickedness of human nature, when it is

not restrained and directed by religion. At present they are at peace with each other, and we may hope they will continue so, for they are now labouring strenuously towards the improvement of their country. Schools have been established upon the plan of the British School Society, and I myself, in a late voyage, actually had several young men passengers who came from London for the purpose of organizing these schools. They have also a college where the different sciences are taught by European Professors, and there is every reason to suppose that at no very distant period, this nation of blacks will contain as great a proportion of well-educated people as any country in Europe."

The next subject on which the Captain was able to satisfy Philips was concerning Porto Rico, within view of which they sailed in their run to St. Domingo, and distant from the latter place sixty miles to the eastward. He had read that at the time of its discovery by Christopher Columbus, it was supposed to contain 600,000 inhabitants, who received the Spaniards among them as beings of a superior order; irritated, however, by the cruelty of their invaders, they had for a long time carried on a war against them, but were at length exterminated. At present it is inhabited by whites and their negro slaves, like the other islands, and is extremely fertile—being beautifully diversified with woods, hills, and valleys, and watered by streams that

descend from the mountains. It is 140 miles in length from east to west, and thirty-six in breadth from north to south. The meadows are so very rich, that the cattle originally introduced into the country from Spain and the other parts of Europe, have multiplied so exceedingly as to become an article of trade, the inhabitants exporting great quantities of them. Its principal traffic, however, is in sugar, ginger, cotton, salt and fruits.

At the expected time from his embarkation, Philips landed at the town of Domingo, the capital of the whole island, and it possessed no small interest in his eyes, as being the oldest city in the Western World, having been built by the celebrated Columbus in the year 1496.—Previous indeed to leaving Europe, our traveller hoped to touch at the island of Guanahani, or St. Salvador, which was the first land discovered by that illustrious navigator, and of forming to himself, upon the actual spot where the scene took place, a more lively idea of the astonishment and admiration of the poor Indians, when they saw the ships, which they at first mistook for living creatures, filled with beings so different from themselves; and the joy of the Spaniards, as they knelt on the shore to return thanks to the Almighty, who had guided them in safety over the vast ocean four thousand miles from home, and disclosed to them a New World.—This desire, however, so natural in one like

Philips, he feared he could not gratify. Guanahani, or St. Salvador, or Cat Island (for it is known by the three names) being one of that vast chain of islands called the Bahamas, which stretch from the Northern Tropic along the east coast of Florida in North America, and therefore it lay too much to the northward of his course.

He found St. Domingo a handsome city, built of a kind of marble found in the neighbourhood, and in the old Spanish style, with flat roofs, the apartments being built round the four sides of a court-yard, which of course they enclose. The rain water is collected in cisterns, from these flat roofs, for supplying the wants of the inhabitants. The number of persons dwelling within the walls of the city is estimated at 12,000, and that of the neighbouring district at 10,000. Here, indeed, all his previous ideas were reversed: He had just left a place where black men are too often looked upon as an inferior race, but in St. Domingo he found all the improvements of civilized life—education, polite manners, and even the very titles and gradations of rank, prevailing amongst those whom the ignorant or illiberal have been accustomed to look down upon as an inferior race, and Europeans permitted to enter the country, not on account of any imagined superiority they possess over black men, but relying upon that protection which every civilized nation will afford to a stranger.

Eastward from the town there lie immense plains, nearly eighty miles in length and twenty in breadth, which are well adapted for the growth of every tropical production, and from the number of rivers passing through it, capable of navigation to any extent. To the south also lies another plain, nearly of the same length and breadth, and so great is their fertility, that Philips heard many of the most intelligent inhabitants say, that they were capable of producing more sugar and other valuable commodities than all the British West Indies put together. The Spaniards, however, wanted industry, and suffered these fertile plains to be overrun by wild animals such as swine, horses, and horned cattle, great quantities of which were formerly exchanged with the contiguous settlements of the French, for those articles of European manufacture of which they stood in need.

The climate Philips found to be moist, but the excessive heats were in part moderated by the sea-breeze, which regularly sets in about ten in the morning, and towards evening is succeeded by the land breeze. The heaviest rains fall in May and June, and this alternation of heat and damp often renders the climate fatal to Europeans. In the dry season, the rivers may be crossed on foot, but one tempestuous shower changes them into a flood, which rushes along with a force that sweeps away every obstacle; they abound with alligators, and also with turtle.

Philips had often dealt in St. Domingo mahogany as an article of commerce, and knew it to be closer-grained, and more beautifully feathered or marked than that which grew on the shores of Honduras Bay, which lies on the eastern coast of the Province of the same name, and north of the Isthmus of Darien. However, he had arranged with his partners to send home a cargo of the Honduras kind and log-wood, and therefore, as the vessel in which he came out, intended to stop some days in Domingo, he lost no time in chartering one of the many ships he found there in order to dispatch her to Ireland, after taking in a lading of this valuable article. For the purpose also of doing his business more satisfactorily, he proceeded in her across the Bay to Balize, a settlement which the British have made on its shores for the purpose of cutting down mahogany and logwood. Arrived there, he found that the number of negro slaves amounted to three thousand, and that the cutting down of the woods which we have mentioned, formed their sole occupation. Some of the timber is rough-squared upon the spot, but this is generally suspended until the logs are rafted to the entrance of the different rivers.—Some of the rafts which Philips saw consist of two hundred logs, and they are often floated as many miles. It happens, however, not unfrequently, when the floods are unusually rapid, that the labour of a season is destroyed by the

breaking asunder of a raft, and the whole of the mahogany being hurried precipitately to the sea.

The gangs of negroes employed in this work consist of from 10 to 50, each having one attached to it called the huntsman, whose business it is to precede the gang at the proper season for the purpose of discovering where the tree is most abundant, and it is most surprising to see with what sagacity he will, without compass or guide, cut his way through the thickest and darkest forests to the spot, where previous observation has satisfied him that it is growing. The mahogany is always cut in blocks, as long as the tree will permit; the logwood-tree, which is used by dyers to give a fine purple or black colour, is cut into logs about three feet in length, and sent into Europe in that form. Philips, therefore, had no difficulty in purchasing a cargo from the proprietors on most advantageous terms, after which he returned in his chartered vessel to Domingo, where he was to take in the remainder of her cargo. This once accomplished, and his other business being satisfactorily arranged, he soon embarked for Jamaica with his friendly Captain, who was there to take in a cargo of sugar, the produce of an estate belonging to one of the mercantile firm. who had employed him. It was but 30 leagues from the west point of the island of St. Domingo, and, therefore, it required but little time to reach it.

On this voyage, however, Philips did not lose

the opportunity of gaining some additional particulars concerning the neighbouring islands, and as he had not an opportunity of visiting Cuba, his enquiries were chiefly directed to obtain information on the subject of its climate, appearance, &c. and the Captain informed him that Cuba is at its greatest extent 764 miles in length, and 134 miles in breadth; the interior of the country is mountainous, and is well watered, and the soil luxuriant—it has been computed, that no less than two hundred rivers flow down from the mountains into the plains. At the foot of these mountains the country opens into extensive meadows, which afford pasture to numerous herds of cattle, the skins of which are to them a valuable article of trade, and of which they annually export about ten or twelve thousand.

The principal town is called the Havannah, and is built on the northern coast of the island, *that* situation being chosen, because the channel between Cuba and the main land of North America, was found the most convenient passage for merchant vessels bound for Europe from Mexico and the Havannah, was built on that side of the island as a port to receive them. Philips enquired if the harbour was a capacious one. "I have seen a thousand vessels lying there at once," replied the Captain, "and so secure. that you would have thought the anchors that held them superfluous; such a fine depth of water does it

afford, and so sheltered is it from the winds! The entrance into the harbour, however, is so narrow a channel, that only one vessel can come in at a time; in consequence of which, it frequently happened during the war, that when vessels, pursued by the enemy, were flying into this port for refuge, those in the rere were generally captured. The town is situated on the western side of the harbour, and both are strongly fortified. The public buildings, and almost all the houses are built of stone, and the town contains a population of about 25,000 souls.

The importance of this place to commerce, has caused it frequently to be taken and retaken by different nations; it has more than once been alternately in the possession of France and England, and now rests with Spain—"and well," said the Captain, "may they prize that spot of land, for the bones of Columbus lie buried there."

Arrived at Jamaica, Philips found himself once more amongst his countrymen, and being well known to many of the merchants there, had no difficulty in procuring the best accommodation the town afforded.

A lofty range of mountains, called the Blue Mountains, runs through the whole of this island from east to west, dividing it into two parts.—On the north side of the island, the country is one scene of richly wooded hills and valleys; and no part of the West Indies abounds with

so many streams as Jamaica—every valley has its rivulet, every hill its cascade, and at one part of the northern shore of the island, where the rocks overhang the ocean, no less than eight waterfalls are seen at the same time. The country, on the southern side, is of a different nature—the rocky mountains stretch down nearer to the shore, and at their foot are extended vast plains, covered with plantations of sugar-cane, coffee, bread-fruit tree, and rice. The island also produces several kinds of fruits—the pine-apple, tamarind, cocoa-nut, Spanish gooseberry, prickly pear, and many others.

The principal town is Kingston, which contains a population of thirty-three thousand persons, of which number there are not less than 18,000 slaves; it is situated on the southern coast of the island; a wealthy, commercial town, and being built on a plain which rises with a gradual ascent from the shore to the foot of the mountain, enjoys both the sea and mountain breezes, and is consequently esteemed one of the most healthful towns in the West Indies.—The ascent on which it is built, however, has one inconvenience attending it, that it admits during the wet season, a free passage to the torrents of rain which rush through the streets with such impetuosity as to render them impassable, even to wheel-carriages, and carry down quantities of mud and rubbish to the wharfs which are built on the beach.

The cedar-trees of Jamaica are remarkably fine, as are also the mahogany trees. The island also produces several other useful kinds of timber. The cabbage-tree, remarkable for the hardness and durability of its wood; the palma, which yields an oil, much esteemed by the natives both in food and medicine ; the soap tree, whose berries answer all the purposes of soap in washing ; the mangrove and olive-bark, useful to tanners ; and the logwood, so much used by dyers. These, and its rich productions of sugar, indigo, and coffee, render Jamaica the first commercial island in the West Indies. Of the latter commodity alone, the quantity exported yearly is estimated at 28,500,000lbs. weight, and the island may well be considered one of the most valuable possessions Great Britain holds in that quarter of the world. The Governor is an English Nobleman of high rank, and European habits and customs have made considerable progress there, even to the adoption of English names to their towns and provinces. Strange enough it was to Philips' ear, to hear them talk of Surrey, Middlesex, and Cornwall, at a distance of four thousand five hundred miles from the British shores.

Here our traveller took leave of the Captain, who, having completed all his business in the Western World, was about to return to Europe with a cargo of sugar. He was now to pursue his course alone, and it may well be believed,

that he saw the vessel sail out of the harbour of Kingston, just as a man, setting out upon a distant and perilous journey, takes leave of a friend who has accompanied him part of his way. As long as he remained a passenger in this vessel, he felt as if the distance which separated him from Europe was diminished; her crew were mostly his countrymen, he had seen them in his native city, and their presence constantly reminded him of home, but for the future he was to meet none but strangers, many of whom had never even heard of Ireland, whilst the uncivilized manners of the Indian tribes, among whom in all probability he would pass some time, gave him no assurance of protection.

From Kingston to Vera Cruz, which lies on the eastern coast of New Spain, the distance was not great, and with the assistance of the friendly trade-winds, our traveller soon reached it in one of those small craft, which are constantly plying between the two places. Vera Cruz, though not the capital of Mexico, is its principal sea-port town, and the seat of all the commerce of that kingdom. It is also one of the earliest settlements which was made in this part of the world by the Spaniards, when they conquered the country, under Ferdinand Cortez. It was with some interest that Philips found himself in this land of gold and silver, and his first object was, to visit the mines for which the country is so justly celebrated; he was also

desirous of seeing the city of Mexico, which is the capital of the country; and he therefore determined to proceed directly there, a distance of about eighty four leagues. The quantity of silver annually extracted from the mines of Mexico, is computed to be ten times more than what is furnished by all the mines of Europe together, though he could not but think how dearly such wealth was purchased, when he saw the toil which the Indians endure who are employed in these works. A European miner, accustomed to see labour so much lightened by the use of machinery, would scarcely believe it possible that all the metal dug out here is carried up to the mouth of the mine in loads on mens' backs. The shafts or pits are run in a slanting direction down into the earth, and flights of steps are cut in the sides by which the carriers pass up and down in their works. Files of fifty or sixty of these poor wretches, are constantly to be met with in these mines, and in coming up the steps, they are obliged, from the heaviness of their burdens, and the steepness of the ascents, to bend the body forwards, supporting themselves as they go along on a short walking-stick, not more than a foot in length. They are observed likewise to traverse these flights of steps in a zigzag direction, crossing the way from side to side, as a horse is known to do in going up a steep hill, it being much less oppressive to them than if they came straight up the declivity at once.

Latterly in some of the mines, mules have been employed for this part of the labour, and have been so well trained, that they go up and down the shafts with the greatest safety. The persons employed in these mines are, however, neither forced labourers, slaves, nor criminals, but are free to engage in the works or not as they please; and however severe their toil may be considered, their pay is good. Each man generally earns from five to six dollars a-week: this is the wages of the miner; but the carriers who bring up the loads of ore, receive 5 shillings for a day's work of six hours; though from the dearness of provisions, this hire is not more than a much smaller sum in a country where the soil is better cultivated. The mines of Mexico have been more celebrated for their riches than those of Potosi, in South America, notwithstanding which they are remarkable for the poverty of the mineral they contain—that is, so great is the quantity of dross mixed with it, that out of 1600 oz. of silver ore, not more than 3 or 4oz. of pure silver can be obtained. It is not, therefore, so much from the richness of the ore, as from its great abundance, that these mines derive their celebrity. Having now witnessed the process of drawing out the metal from the mine, of roasting, and afterwards separating it pure from the earthy matter with which it is mixed, it may well be supposed that Philips next visited the mint, where it is wrought into coin, and which is well

worthy the attention of travellers, from the order and activity which prevail in all the operations of the works. Here are nearly four hundred workmen in constant employment, and so great is the activity which prevails, that 30,000,000 piastres, which is equal to $7\frac{1}{2}$ millions sterling, is the average amount of the quantity yearly coined there.

From the mineral productions of this country, Philips naturally turned his attention to the vegetables, and though he found for the most part, those which are common in the West Indies, he likewise met there many of the fruits and flowers of Europe. Peaches, cherries, apples and pears grow there in the greatest abundance; and the natives are remarkable for their fondness for flowers. In the fruit market of Mexico, their shops are tastefully decorated with them; and though a grave and melancholy people, having none of the vivacity which usually prevails in the Indian character, they take great delight in these simple pleasures.

The town of Mexico, of which the population is estimated at 130,000 souls, is the oldest city of America, and was built on a group of islands in a lake called Tezcuco, which are connected together, and with the main land, by several bridges; the new parts of the town, however, have been built on the main land, and the whole city now forms an extent of four miles in length. The streets are spacious and regular,

and the public buildings good, particularly the hospitals and prisons.

The manufactures carried on in Mexico, though they are not considerable, have of late years been very much on the increase ; those of weaving cloths, printing callicoes, and likewise all kinds of silversmiths' works, are the principal trades flourishing there.

It was at this city that Philips had the good fortune to hear of an expedition, which the Government of the United States was about to send into the Western and inland parts of North America, for the purpose of exploring that hitherto undiscovered region. The Continent of North America, the reader should be informed, is divided into two great parts—the civilized and the uncivilized, the former lying principally to the East, and inhabited by those colonists from Europe, who first settled there in the year 1607, and have since gradually, but uninterruptedly, been stretching westward and inland from the coast; the latter extending from thence to the shores of the Pacific Ocean, where the Russians have established a few trading settlements.—The situation of the line, however, which should mark the separation between both, it would be difficult to determine in such a work as this, since it must be evident that this line is constantly shifting as the Indians retire, and settlers advance into the interior, and that a considerable tract on the borders is still wandered over by sa-

vage tribes, although here and there the traveller will meet with a farming settlement belonging to a colonist. It will be sufficient, therefore, to say, that the greatest breadth of North America, being nearly 8000 miles, two great rivers the Mississippi and the Missouri, join at 1368 miles from the entrance of the united stream into the sea, the former river flowing from the East, the latter from the west—thus forming a Y, and that all the country that is situated on the right hand, as you look up the rivers represented by the letter, is possessed by the United States of North America, and is inhabited by a civilized people, whilst the tract between the branches, and on the left of it, is wandered over rather than inhabited by various rude nations of Indians, who chiefly subsist by hunting. The object, therefore, of the expedition was, to ascend the stream of the Missouri to its source; and, crossing the great western ridge of mountains, to proceed down one of the rivers at the opposite side to its mouth, and thus to acquire a knowledge of these remote districts hitherto unknown, to establish an intercourse with the nations who occupy them, and to introduce among them those arts of which they are utterly ignorant; and as it was under the authority of the Government of the United States, it may well be supposed no expense nor care was to be spared in its accomplishment.

Happily for Philips, one of the persons who were to conduct the enterprize, was then in Mexico

upon some private business, and to him therefore, he applied for permission to join it; nor was he long in obtaining it. Captain Lewis saw him active, intelligent, and fearless, and as such was the character he wished to engage in the expedition, he not only complied with his request, but in compliment to the mercantile house in which he was a partner, assured him he would have every attention paid to his accommodation. (There is no saying, thought Philips, of what inestimable value is a good character, or in how many unexpected instances a man will derive advantage from it.) He also, in the kindest manner, offered him a passage from Vera Cruz to New Orleans, which is situated near the mouth of the Mississippi, from whence they could proceed together up that river to St. Louis, where the party selected for the expedition was to assemble.

This was an opportunity too favourable to be disregarded, and therefore, in a few days behold him along with his new friend, steering across the gulf of Mexico to the mouths of the Mississippi. Nor were they long in making their passage (though the distance was fully 1300 miles between the two parts) the gulf-stream, as it is called, which always sweeps in a rapid current round the shores of New Spain and the Floridas, carrying them rapidly along.

The town of New Orleans, where Philips soon arrived with his new acquaintance, is the

capital of the State of Louisiana, which was formerly a French colony, but now forms a part of the United States of America, and lies on the western side of the great river Mississippi, one hundred and five miles from its mouth. Here he found all the marks of a city rising fast into commercial importance, it being the great mart for the produce of the western part of the United States of America, to which the Mississippi forms the only outlet to the sea; indeed, the quantity of goods brought into it from this quarter is immense. The houses were built of wood a few years ago, but those recently erected are, for the most part of brick. In 1802, the population consisted of ten thousand souls—it now amounts to forty thousand; and its exports were, in 1817, valued at four millions sterling. In the same year, about one thousand flat-bottomed boats and barges arrived from the Upper Country, bringing its productions; and the number of steam-vessels navigating the Mississippi and the Ohio, which flows into it, amounted to twenty, a prodigious number indeed, when the time that has produced this improvement is taken into account, but still not less than the vast extent of country through which the Mississippi, and the rivers which fall into it, direct their course.

As Philips was now about to traverse a considerable portion of the vast Continent of North America, his first object was, to form to himself some precise idea of its geography, and happily

he found no difficulty in discovering the grand features; (its mountains, rivers, and lakes,) by which it is distinguished. In his journey through South America, he had seen the immense chain of the Andes, which stretches from the Straits of Magellan in the South, to the Isthmus of Darien in the North, sending off to the East great lateral ridges of mountains to feed with their streams the Oronoco, the Amazons, and the Plate rivers; his visit to Mexico had also satisfied him from inspection, that the same range of mountains spreads through the kingdom of New Spain, and he now found that they continued their course through North America, under the name of the Rocky or Stony Mountains, running in part parallel to the shores of the Pacific Ocean, at the distance of about five hundred miles, and separating the rivers which flow into the Pacific Ocean, which lies to the West of America from those which run in an opposite direction towards the Atlantic Ocean. As Philips looked therefore Northwards from New Orleans, he saw the commencement of this chain to his left, and afterwards found that it extended quite through North America from south to north, until it reached the shores of the Frozen Ocean. But there was also another range of mountains lying between the Rocky Mountains and the Atlantic Ocean, called the Allegany or Apalachian Mountains, preserving throughout a nearly equal distance of two hundred and fifty miles from the

Atlantic, a space too small for the uniting together of many rivers, and hence these streams—such as the Potomac, the Susquehana, and the Delaware, make their way, each in its own separate channel to the sea.

Between these two great chains, the Rocky Mountains on the west, and the Allegany on the East, the country is extended into an immense valley from 12 to 1500 miles in breadth, and here therefore it is that we find the largest rivers, the Mississippi, the Missouri, together with their tributary streams; though these two join together, they are each to be considered rivers of the largest class—the Missouri before its junction, being calculated to extend to the enormous length of three thousand miles, and the Mississippi being two thousand miles long from its source to its mouth; the Missouri receives all the rivers which flow eastward from the Rocky Mountains, and the Mississippi all those that flow westward from the Allegany; and it will give some idea of the great extent of these tributary streams to say, that one of them, the Ohio, is the channel which receives the waters from a district about four times as large as Great Britain and Ireland.

This immense valley, however, does not extend farther North than the 50th degree of latitude, being bounded by a ridge of high grounds, which separates the waters of the Missouri from those which flow northwards, and shuts in as it were

the immense district which we have mentioned, as bounded by the Rocky Mountains westward, the Allegany Mountains eastward, and the Gulf of Mexico in the south; and continuing eastward, the Continent is as it were still further divided by another grand feature—namely, that line of lakes, of which, in the course of Philips' travels, we shall have occasion to speak more at large.

Having thus, therefore, ascertained generally the country through which he was about to pass, and made such preparations as were pointed out to him, and written to his partners to mention the journey he had in contemplation, and also to inform them, that if it pleased Providence to prolong his life, it would most probably be two years before he would have another opportunity of communicating to them his movements, he and his friend embarked in a steam vessel at New Orleans, and though the current ran rapidly against them, it was surprising what way they made, owing to the great size of the steam-engine which impelled them. We shall not, however, detail this voyage minutely, as it afforded nothing very material. It will suffice to mention, that for the first eighty miles, he found the cultivation of the sugar cane much attended to—the richest plantations extending down on both sides to the banks. He had also an opportunity to remark the great appearance of thriving and indefatigable industry, which every where presented itself. At Natches, which was 320

miles northward from New Orleans, the steamboat stopped to disembark some of its passengers, and the commodities purchased by them there, and he found it a neat handsome town, extremely well situated for a commercial station, having a fertile and well-cultivated country in its rere, which produces great quantities of cotton. Its population amounted to five thousand souls; and it seemed to him no weak proof of the spirit of the inhabitants, that there were two printing presses in the town, at each of which some of the most useful European works were in a course of publication. Proceeding thence for three hundred and fifty miles, he met one of the largest steam-vessels that ply between New Orleans and the Western States. It was no less than four hundred tons burden, and had descended the stream of the Ohio from Pittsburgh, and from the place where it entered the Mississippi to that where Philips saw it, a distance of one thousand nine hundred miles, in twenty days.—The next halting station where our traveller had an opportunity of making some observations was, the flourishing town of New Madrid, on the west branch of the river, and seventy miles below the mouth of the Ohio, where that stream flows into the Mississippi. The Ohio, though but a tributary stream, would in Europe, be considered a river of great magnitude. Its navigable length from Pittsburgh is nine hundred and fifty miles, and its main breadth is not less

than five hundred yards. To mention the names of the towns which have lately risen up along its banks could not interest, as Philips' course lay in a different direction, and he was unable to visit them ; it is sufficient to say, that there are eight, every one of them a station for promoting an intercourse with remoter districts.

The town of St. Louis, where the steam vessel arrived fifteen days after its departure from New Orleans, from which it is distant 1350 miles, and where Philips and his companion found all ready for setting out, is built on an elevated, pleasant, and healthful situation, only eighteen miles below the junction of the Missouri with the Mississippi ; to Philips' great surprise it contained no less than three thousand inhabitants, but this was accounted for, when he considered how advantageously it lay with regard to the United States, being as it were at the junction of these three great rivers, the Missouri, Mississippi, and the Illinois, the former flowing from the west three thousand miles, and the two latter from the east country, and being thus the point of intercourse between these head waters and the Gulf of Mexico : he found it indeed in a state of rapid improvement, fast increasing in population and trade, and promising in a very few years to become a large city, and the centre of an extensive trade.

As the expedition which Philips had now joined, was one from which much interesting in-

formation was expected concerning the interior of the American Continent, as well as much future advantage to the inhabitants of the United States, by establishing a commerce with the native Indians for their furs, every thing was provided, as we have mentioned, which could contribute to its success ; besides the leaders of the party, Philips on his arrival at St. Louis, found Captains Lewis and Clarke the other Commander and twenty-three robust active young men, who had volunteered to accompany them, two French watermen, an Interpreter and his wife, to enable them to hold communication with the Indian tribes they might meet with in their course, a hunter and a black servant, belonging to Captain Clarke. From these, three were appointed serjeants, and in addition six soldiers and nine watermen, were to accompany them in order to assist in carrying the stores, and in repelling the attack of any hostile tribes of Indians. These stores were divided into seven bales, and one box was filled with a small portion of each article, in case any accident should befall the others ; they consisted of a great variety of clothing, working utensils, locks, and ammunition. To them were added fourteen packages and bales of presents for the purpose of conciliating the friendship of the Indians, comprising richly laced coats and other articles of dress, medals, flags, knives, tomahawks, ornaments of different kinds,

particularly beads, looking-glasses, handkerchiefs, paints, &c.; the party also were to embark in five boats, and two horses were at the same time to be led along the banks of the river for the purpose of bringing home game, or for hunting in case of scarcity.

It was on the 19th of May, 18—, the expedition set sail from St. Louis, and for the first twelve days they met with various settlements and farms, which bore the marks of neatness and industry; but after this they passed into a country, where none were to be met with but wandering Indians, and the country bore but little marks of cultivation, though every thing announced the fertility of the soil. It was on the first of June they reached the mouth of the Osage, a considerable river which flows from the west and falls into the Missouri, one hundred and thirty miles distance from the mouth of the latter river. Here they stopped for a couple of days in order to repair their oars. The Osage gives its name to an Indian tribe which inhabits its banks to a considerable distance, their number was about one thousand three hundred warriors, as they are called, for Philips found that neither women or children were ever numbered; those only being mentioned who were able to carry arms. They consist of three tribes—the Great Osages, of about five hundred warriors; the Little Osages, of half that number; and the Arkansaw band, of six hundred. The last

were a colony of Osages, who had left them a few years before, under the command of a Chief called Bigfoot, and settled on the Arkans w river. This rises in the mountains westward, and after a course of two thousand miles, falls into the Mississippi. Let the reader understand from this, the advantages of civilization; this tribe has made considerable advances in agriculture, but hunting being with them, as with the Indians in general, their chief support, they soon exhaust a country of its provisions, and therefore are obliged to separate whenever their numbers increase, so that our traveller computed that their hunting parties, consisting of a few hundreds, used to range through as many miles of country as could have sufficed for the support of millions, had they employed themselves exclusively in agriculture. The Osage Indians are so tall and robust as almost to deserve the name of Giants, few of them appear under six feet, and many of them are above it. Their shoulders and countenances also are broad, which tends to increase the ferocity of their appearance. The next morning, Philips was walking on the river bank with one of the hunters, when he observed two women, as he at first conceived, carrying a tub of water suspended on a pole.—His companion, however, made him remark that one of them had more the appearance of a man than a woman. He told him also that there were several others amongst the tribe who, like

the one before them, were condemned for life to associate with the squaws or women, to wear the same dress, and to do the same drudgery.—When the Osages go to war, they keep a watchful eye over the young men, and such as appear to possess courage are admitted to the rank of warriors or *brave men*. But if any exhibit evident marks of cowardice, they are compelled to assume the dress of women, and as no opportunity is ever afterwards afforded them to recover their character, their condition is fixed for life. The men do not associate with them, nor are they allowed to marry, and they may be treated with the greatest indignity by any of the warriors, as they are not suffered to resent it.

When we are considering the habits of these uninstructed savages, it must not surprise us that many of them should exhibit a cruel and bloodthirsty disposition. It is customary among their fighting men to register every exploit in war, by making a notch for each on the handle of their tomahawks or hatchets; and they consider themselves rich or poor, not according to their possessions, but according to the number of notches. At their war-dances, any warrior that chuses may relate his actions. A post is fixed up in the centre to represent the enemy, and into this he drives his tomahawk when in the act of describing how he struck him to the ground, and he concludes by repeating what he said to the wounded man, which is always to the following

effect—"My name is Cashegra, I am a famous warrior, and am now going to kill you; when you arrive at the land of spirits, you will see my father there—tell him it was Cashegra that sent you there." How cruel is man! thought Philips, as he witnessed one of the warriors boasting of his actions, and shewing the scalps of those whom he had killed. It is Christianity only which teaches him peace and good-will to his fellow-creatures.

This mode of living by the chace enables the Indians to kill great quantities of animals, the furs of which they sell to Europeans, who give them in exchange iron, hardware, rifles, and ammunition. These latter commodities assist them in their hunting expeditions; but it is a great pity that they should find the traders with whom they barter, always ready to let them have as much rum as they desire—for, like all barbarous nations, they are fond of spirits, and always drink to excess, when they have the liquor.

Frequently the party met boats and rafts belonging to traders, who, having passed some time in those places favourable for hunting, and purchased skins from the Indians, were now descending the river to St. Louis, with their cargoes. One of them named Rogers, was coming from the Sioux Nation, where he had resided for twenty years, and had succeeded in gaining their confidence, he therefore appeared to Cap-

tain Clarke to be a very useful person to accompany the expedition, and was fortunately easily induced to return with them.

The general rate at which the party proceeded, was about ten miles a-day ; nor must this be thought little, when it is considered that considerable labour was requisite to make way against the current of the river, which was extremely rapid. Another difficulty they had daily to encounter, arose from bars of sand, which the force of the stream continually wash down from the banks at both sides and cause to shift from place to place. When the boats struck on one of them, the effect would have been to upset them immediately, if the men did not jump out and hold them steady till the sand washed from underneath them. The general appearance of the country was, as if it had been divided into distinct farms or large tracts of pasture ground, divided by narrow stripes of woodland which grow along the borders of the small streams which run into the river. The hunting party along the banks was occasionally relieved by others from the boats, so that all had their share of exercise. It may well be supposed that Philips generally accompanied these, and that his enquiring mind found continual occupation in examining the animals and productions of the country. On one day he found a nest of rattlesnakes, three of which he killed, but the rest being more active escaped. These serpents give

the most deadly bite, a bag of poison being contained in the gum, out of which a small quantity passes through a hollow tooth lying above this bag into the wound, and causes death generally in a few hours after. On another day, Philips came to a large pond, where he saw a number of young swans, some of which were quite black. "It is a common opinion in Ireland," said Philips, on his return to the boat, "that all swans are white, but I shall be able on my return, to assure them that a black swan is by no means a prodigy." As the party proceeded on their course, Philips had frequent opportunities of observing the great windings of the river; on one occasion the distance made by the boats between morning and evening, was twelve miles. When they had cast anchor, Philips went ashore, and having pursued some game in an easterly direction for about a quarter of a mile, found himself exactly at the same point of land which they had left in the morning.

They had proceeded for some time without meeting any Indian tribes, though they occasionally came across a few straggling hunters, and indeed, without the occurrence of any thing remarkable, for the events of each day were almost similar. But the leaders of the expedition wanting now to open a communication with the natives, for the purpose of gaining their friendship, to Philips' great surprise, Captain Lewis ordered the surrounding meadows to be

set on fire. This, he found, however, was no injury to property in a country, where the long thick grass grows to rankness for want of animals to consume it; and besides that, it was the customary signal used by the traders to apprize the Indians of their arrival. It is also used between different tribes to indicate any event which they have previously agreed to announce in that way, and as soon as it is seen it collects the whole neighbouring people, unless they apprehend that it is made by their enemies.

This signal soon brought down the Sioux to the number of five Chiefs and seventy men and boys. Like all the other Indians whom they had hitherto met, they came almost naked, having no covering except a cloth across the loins, with a loose blanket or buffalo's skin thrown over them. When they appeared first in sight, a serjeant was dispatched to meet them with a present of tobacco, corn, and a few kettles, and to inform them that they would be received the next morning. In return for these he was presented with a fat dog, ready cooked, of which he partook heartily and found it well flavoured. The Sioux, therefore, encamped for the night in tents of a conical form, covered with buffalo skins, painted with various figures and colours, with an opening in the top for the smoke to pass through, each of which contained from ten to fifteen persons, and in the interior was compact and handsome, having a place for cooking detached from it.

On the next morning the fog was so thick that the party could not see the Indian camp, though it was near at hand, but it cleared off at eight o'clock. The Chiefs, therefore, were received at twelve under a large oak tree. The conference was opened by Captain Lewis delivering a speech, with the usual advice for their future conduct. He then presented to the grand Chief a flag, a medal, and a string of wampum, to which was added a chief's coat; that is, a richly laced uniform and a cocked hat, and red feather. To the inferior Chiefs were given medals, tobacco, and several articles of clothing. They then smoked the pipe of peace together, and the Chiefs retired to a bower formed of bushes by the young men, when they divided among each other the presents, and smoked and deliberated on the answer to be given to their new friends on the next day. The young people exercised their bows and arrows in shooting at a mark for beads, which were distributed to the best marksmen, and in the evening the whole party danced to a late hour.

The next day the chiefs met after breakfast, and sat down in a row with pipes of peace, highly ornamented and all pointed towards the seats intended for Captains Lewis and Clarke. When they arrived and were seated, the grand chief, whose name in English was Shake-hand, rose and spoke at some length, approving what had been said on the preceding day by their new friends, and promising to follow their advice.

Philips observed that the Chiefs in general spoke very little: indeed they considered talkativeness a great mark of a narrow capacity; the younger men also, never expressed their opinion before their elders, and were entirely silent when they were agreed, conceiving it quite unnecessary to consume time in discoursing on what had already received all the reflection which age and experience could give. The conclusion of all their speeches recited the distresses of their nation—they begged the Americans, their new friends and visiters, to have pity on them, to send them traders; that they wanted powder and ball, and seemed anxious to be supplied with what they called their Great Father's milk, meaning whiskey or rum. Mr. Rogers was here prevailed on to remain behind for the purpose of accompanying some of the Sioux Chiefs down the river to St. Louis, and from thence to the United States, where they could enter into a treaty of peace and commerce with the Government.

In person, the Sioux Indians are stout well proportioned men, and have a certain air of dignity and boldness; they were fond of decorations, and used paint, porcupine quills and feathers. Some of them wore a necklace of white bears' claws, three inches long, and closely strung about their necks. They had only a few fowling-pieces, being generally armed with bows and arrows.

Like most savage nations, these Indians are fond of war; but they have another enemy to contend with which thins their numbers still more considerably—the small pox, which they first caught from the traders, has oftentimes depopulated the most thickly inhabited villages. Indeed, in the course of the expedition the party heard the names of several tribes which existed but a few years before, but had altogether, or almost disappeared from this cause. One tribe had been reduced from two hundred fighting men to fifty, for they knew no remedy for it, either in the way of prevention or cure, and the appearance of the disorder, which is known at times to cover the body from head to foot with one sore, only increased the terror which its deadly nature excited.

It was at this period of their journey that the expedition was threatened with hostility by the Teton Indians, who had collected in great numbers on the bank to oppose their advancing. By using mildness, however, and steadiness, and at the same time presenting them with a few rolls of tobacco, peace was made, and the party was suffered to proceed. The following day, the weather was extremely inclement and the waves high, but this did not prevent two or three Squaws from rowing out to the boats in little canoes, made of a single buffalo skin, stretched over a frame of boughs interwoven like a basket. Every thing on board excited their admiration;

but the object which appeared to astonish them most was, the black servant York, a remarkably strong stout negro. They examined him closely and rubbed his skin with water in order to wash off the paint; nor was it until the negro uncovered and shewed his short hair, that they could be persuaded that he was not a painted white man.—They had never before seen a man of that colour, and therefore, as soon as the account spread of his being aboard, they flocked to see him in great numbers. It has been already mentioned, that the Indians in general are fond of whiskey, and that those with whom they trade too often encourage this liking, by providing them with large quantities in exchange for their skins.—Philips, however, now became acquainted with a tribe that never made use of spirituous liquors of any kind, the intemperance of the traders who brought it to them, having in fact, disgusted instead of tempting them. The Americans at first supposing that it was as agreeable to them as to the other Indians, offered them whiskey, but they refused with a remark that would have done credit to many people, who think themselves far more civilized than these ignorant savages.—They were surprized, they said, that their father, meaning the President or Chief Governor of the United States, should present to them a liquor that would make them fools; and, on another occasion, they observed to the interpreter, that no man could be their friend who would lead them into such folly.

Proceeding still onward up the river, and holding a conference with the tribes of Indians that dwell upon the banks, the expedition at last found the cold becoming so severe, that they could not think of advancing further till the end of the winter. It was now November, they therefore sought a convenient spot for building a fort, but were obliged to relinquish their intention, the timber in the neighbourhood not being in sufficient quantity for the purpose.—They were thus obliged to continue advancing further up the stream. In the evening that they formed this resolution, a prairie, by the incautiousness of the Indians was set on fire, and so swiftly did the long grass burn, that the whole plain was in a few minutes enveloped in flames. A man and woman were burned before they could reach a place of safety, and several others narrowly escaped destruction. Amongst those who escaped was a boy, who owed his preservation to the presence of mind displayed by his mother, who, seeing no hopes of carrying off her son, threw him on the ground, and covering him with the fresh hide of a buffalo, escaped herself from the flames. As soon as the fire had passed, she returned and found him untouched, the skin having prevented the flames from reaching the spot where he lay.

It was about this time that Philips was awakened one night by the serjeant on guard, to see that striking appearance in the sky, called

the Northern light, of which he had often heard, but never before had an opportunity of beholding, for it is not visible except in such high latitudes. Looking out towards the North, he saw a large space of the sky occupied by a light of a pale but brilliant white colour, which, rising from the horizon, extended itself to a great distance above it. After glittering for some time, its colours became overcast and almost obscured, but again it burst out with renewed beauty.—The uniform colour was pale, but its shapes were various and fantastic. At times the sky was lined with light-coloured streaks, rising perpendicularly from the horizon, and gradually widening into a body of light which sometimes advanced, and sometimes retreated, assuming various forms. So much interested was Philips in this beautiful appearance, that he never once left the deck till towards morning, when it faded away.

The weather had now become so cold, (it was the commencement of January) that the party suffered much, and finding it impossible to proceed further, they soon, with the assistance of the Indians, erected a fort or strong block-house, where they resolved to remain till the weather should moderate, the more particularly as it was situated in the neighbourhood of one of the Indian villages, the inhabitants of which appeared well disposed towards their visiters; and also, because they found wood there in great

abundance for the erection of their house. The cold, however, did not prevent several from going out each day with the Indians to hunt the buffaloes, vast numbers of which resort at this time to the extensive pasture lands that cover the whole face of the country. It was worthy of remark, however, how much more patient of cold the Indians were than their new acquaintances. One young man had, by chance, separated from the hunters, and remained abroad the whole night with no other covering than his leggings and buffalo robe ; his feet, however, were frozen, and it required some time before the circulation of the blood could be restored to them. When he first came in several ignorantly proposed to set him before a good blazing fire, thinking it the best way of restoring warmth to his limbs. Philips, however, soon dissuaded them from this measure, by assuring them that such a plan would infallibly bring a mortification in his feet, and perhaps cause his death, unless he permitted the mortified parts to be cut off by a surgeon. He desired, however, that they should be gently rubbed with snow and afterwards put into cold water, and thus by gradually restoring warmth he in a short time perfectly recovered. About this time, an Indian who had also been missing came to the fort, and although his dress was thin, and he had slept on the snow without a fire, he had not suffered from the cold.

It is a singular custom of the Indian tribes to break up from their villages when the winter season commences, and in a body to pass into those parts favourable for the chace. Nearly half of a very numerous tribe passed the fort on one occasion to hunt for several days. Nor did the men go alone, for women, children, and dogs—all had left the village together, and having found a convenient spot near the fort, pitched their tents there, and began to prepare for their hunting operations. In this labour all the family bear their part, and the game is equally divided amongst the families in the tribe. When a single hunter returns from the chace with more than is necessary for his own consumption, the neighbours are entitled by custom, to a share of it; they do not, however, ask for it, but send a quaw, who without saying any thing sits down by the door of the tent, till the master understands, and gives her a part for her family.

But there is a mode of hunting the buffaloe, peculiar to the spring season, which it will interest the reader to explain. At the close of the winter, when the river is breaking up, and the ice is floating down in large quantities from the cold latitudes, the surrounding plains are set on fire, and the buffaloes, thus tempted to cross the river in quest of the fresh grass, which immediately succeeds to the burning; on their way they are often seen standing upon a piece of ice which floats down the river. The Indians now select the most favourable points for attack, and

as the buffaloe approaches, dart with astonishing agility across the ice. The animal is thus rendered unsteady, and his footsteps insecure, so that he can make but little resistance, and the hunter, who has given him his death-blow, paddles his icy boat to the shore and secures his prey.

It was about the middle of April, when the cold became so much moderated, as to permit the expedition again to proceed up the river.—They now were warned by the Indians to beware of the white bears, which they would meet in great numbers. They themselves never ventured to attack this fierce animal, but in parties of six or eight persons, and even then are often defeated with the loss of one or more of their number. Having no weapons but bows and arrows, and the bad guns with which the traders supply them, they are obliged to approach very near to the bear, and as no wound, except through the head or heart is mortal, they frequently fall a sacrifice if they miss their aim.—He rather attacks than avoids a man, and such is the terror that he has inspired, that the Indians prepare themselves for the contest with as much form as if they were going to make war on a neighbouring nation. Hitherto Philips had seen none very desirous of encountering him; but although to a skilful rifleman, the danger is much diminished, yet the white bear is a terrible animal. Philips was one morning ashore with

a hunter, when they saw two at a short distance. They immediately fired at them, and each wounded his mark; one of them made his escape, but the other turned upon Philips, and pursued him seventy or eighty yards, but being so badly wounded, it could not run so fast as to prevent his reloading his piece, which he again aimed at it, and a third shot from the hunter brought it to the ground. It was a female not quite full grown, and weighed about six hundred pounds. Near the spot where she at first shewed herself, Philips found three small cubs, which in fact had been the cause of her advancing to meet the danger—one of these cubs he took in his arms. It seemed sensible of its situation, and cried at intervals; and it was distressing to observe, that whenever it uttered a cry, the convulsions of its dying mother increased. Indeed, as he afterwards learned, nothing can surpass the attachment of the she bear to her young. Even when they are able to climb a tree, her anxiety for their safety is but little diminished. At that time, if hunted, her first care is to make her young climb to a place of safety, and having succeeded in removing them out of danger, she turns fearlessly on her pursuers.

It was now, however, after Philips had been ten months ascending the Missouri, independent of the time they were obliged to halt by reason of the cold, that he had the opportunity of wit-

nessing one of the first objects in nature—a noble river precipitating itself down a fall of eighty feet. He had gone ashore early in the morning with the hunters, for the purpose of penetrating in a due western direction, in the hope of seeing the Rocky Mountains which stretch through the continent of North America, from north to south. The day continued fine, and they almost insensibly wandered on for twenty-seven miles before they thought of returning, but it was now too late, and Philips also felt himself unwell from fatigue and too much exertion; they therefore, resolved to rest that night where they were, and in the morning to resume their course still westward.

At sunrise the following day, finding himself perfectly refreshed, Philips was ready to set out with his companions; after a course of six miles, the ground gradually ascending all the way, they overlooked a most beautiful plain, where they saw more buffaloes grazing than they had ever before seen at a single view. Across this plain they had advanced about two miles, when their ears were saluted with the sound of falling water, and they saw a spray arising to a great height; like a column, and then vanishing in an instant. Towards this spot they directed their steps, and the noise increasing as they approached, soon became too tremendous to be mistaken for any thing but the great falls of the Missouri, which the different traders they had met in their route

had described as so magnificent. Having travelled seven miles after first hearing the sound, the party reached the Cataract about twelve o'clock, when Philips, outstripping the others, hurried down the steep banks which lined the river on both sides, and seated himself on some rocks exactly opposite in order to enjoy the sublime sight.

The river, immediately at the cascade, is three hundred yards wide, and falls from a perpendicular height of eighty feet in one unbroken sheet of water. The spring which rises from this, assumes a thousand different shapes, sometimes flying up in columns of fifteen or twenty feet, and marked with the bright colours of the rainbow. Below this fall the river is one continued succession of rapids and cascades, overhung with perpendicular cliffs, a hundred feet high on each side. Above the fall at the distance of a few hundred yards, the whole Missouri is suddenly stopped by one shelving rock, which, without a single niche, and with an edge as straight and regular as if formed by art, stretches itself from one side of the river to the other for at least a quarter of a mile. At half-a mile higher up, there is another of a similar kind—except that in the former, the perpendicular depth to which it fell was fifty feet, whilst in the latter it is only fourteen feet. Just below the falls is a little island in the middle of the river, well covered with timber. Here, on a cotton-wood tree, an eagle had fixed its nest,

certain of security in a place which neither man or beast could approach.

When Philips had satisfied himself with the view of these falls, he reascended the steep bank in order to return to his companions. On his way through the plain, he met a herd of at least a thousand buffaloes feeding, and, being desirous of providing for supper, he shot one of them. The animal immediately began to bleed; and Philips, who had forgotten to reload his rifle, was intently watching to see him fall, when three buffaloe bulls, which were feeding with the herd at the distance of half-a-mile, left their companions and ran full speed towards him; however, he had reason to thank Providence for his preservation, for when they came within a hundred yards of him they stopped, looked at him for some time, and then retreated as they came. He now was at liberty to pursue his course, and accordingly, in a few hours after it was dark, reached his companions, who had been very anxious for his safety, regretting, that they had not awaited his return from the falls—and had already decided on the route which each should take in the morning to look for him.

This cataract appeared to put an insuperable bar to the further progress of the expedition—that the boats should proceed in the face of such a cascade, was quite out of the question; and it was also found that above and below those falls,

for a great distance, the bed of the river is so broken by rocks and shoals—that from the place where the boat rested for the day to the spot above where the river became again navigable, was in all eighteen miles. Various measures were proposed, but no one being eligible they were all rejected. The most judicious plan, however, seemed to be to leave as many of the boats as possible below the falls, stowing in them all the stores and baggage not indispensable for the continuance of their progress, and carrying the remaining boats across the distance which separated the two navigable points. Accordingly, a carriage was soon made, on which the largest boat was placed, and though the labour of dragging it over the unevenness of the ground was great, (and in many places they were obliged to cut a road for it,) they at last succeeded in launching her safely on the river above the falls—the same was done with two other boats; and as for the canoes, they admitted of being taken to pieces and put together again, so that their transportation was not difficult.

Once embarked upon the stream, the party now proceeded with comparative ease—the banks, however, were in many places high, and prevented their using the tow-line by which they dragged the boats against the stream, but the stream was deep, and therefore, on such occasions, they could put out their oars. Nothing remarkable now occurred, till they arrived at

the point where the Missouri appears formed by the flowing of three rivers into one common stream. During all this course, which occupied them about twelve days, they met with no Indians, though their tracks in many places, and also the remains of their tents, which they now and then passed, shewed that it was not long since they had broken up from this part of the country.—They met with plenty of game, but there was now reason to fear, that if they endeavoured to advance through the mountains, it would soon abandon them. Their object was, after tracing the Missouri up to its source, to cross the Rocky Mountains, and getting down upon the other side as near as possible to the head of the Columbia river, to descend that stream till they reached the shores of the Pacific Ocean. It was now, therefore, of the utmost consequence that they should meet with the Snake Indians, who should serve them as guides, as without these they would be quite unable to find a passage across the mountains, at least such a one as should lead to the Columbia ; and even were they so fortunate as to find a branch of that river, the timber which they had hitherto seen in those mountains, did not promise any fit to make canoes, so that it became still more necessary to meet some tribe from whom they could procure horses.

All their efforts were now therefore directed to the discovery of that stream, amongst the three which led to the source of the Missouri, and

also to the search for the guides, whom they expected to conduct them across the mountains. Different parties were sent up the three rivers, to which they gave the names of Jefferson, Madison, and Gallatin, and the main body remained at the forks, for the purpose of converting the skins of the animals which they had killed, into articles of clothing, of which they now began to be very much in want. Indeed, they had some reason for imagining that they were not very far from some tribe who could assist them, for the wife of the Indian who had accompanied the expedition as interpreter, informed them that they were on the precise spot where her countrymen, the Snake Indians had their huts five years ago, when they were suddenly attacked by a hostile tribe, and she herself with four others, carried away a prisoner; the party, therefore, which was sent out under Captain Lewis, for the purpose of accomplishing these objects, for ten days proceeded in search of the Indians, but without success; the great difficulty in their course being, to know which stream to follow in order to reach the true source of the river, for as they went on they found so many forks, caused by the flowing of many lateral streams into one, that in the impossibility of deciding which to trace, when all were so nearly alike in size, they often took that which was wrong and had to return to the point from which they had started, in order to try another. In

one place, where they found an Indian road or pathway, which gave them hopes of being on the right track, they immediately dispatched one of their number to a certain spot, where it had been agreed the body which remained at the forks, should send for information of their proceedings—this plan, however, was frustrated by a singular circumstance: the man, on arriving at the preconcerted position, set up a tall pole, to the top of which he tied the note of which he was the bearer, and returned; the stick, however, was soon after cut down by the beavers and carried off, so that when the messenger sent to take it reached it, he saw the pole gnawed across, and a fragment of the note which had stuck to the bushes, and on which a few words were visible. Captain Lewis had been often disappointed in the way we have mentioned, and had now completely lost sight of the Indian path, when he resolved to wade across the river, in order to get to a narrow pass, which he saw at a distance—it was here twelve yards wide, and barred in several places by the dams of the beaver. He also requested Philips to follow the river on the right, and sent another to go along the left, in order to search for the road, and if they found it, to let him know by raising a hat on the muzzle of a gun. In is order they went for about five miles, when a man on horseback was perceived coming along the plain, at the distance of two miles from

them. On examining him with the glass, it was easily seen he was of a different nation from any Indians hitherto met; he was armed with a bow and a quiver of arrows, mounted on an elegant horse without a saddle, and a small string attached to the under jaw, answered as a bridle. Convinced that he was a Shoshonee, and knowing how much the success of the expedition depended on the friendly offices of that nation, Captain Lewis was full of anxiety to approach without alarming him. He, therefore, proceeded on towards the Indian at his usual pace—when they were within a mile of each other, the Indian suddenly stopped. Captain Lewis immediately followed his example, took his blanket from his knapsack, and holding it with both hands at the two corners, unfolded it as if in the act of spreading it. This is the universal sign of friendship among the Indians on the Missouri and the Rocky Mountains—as usual, he repeated this signal three times; still the Indian kept his position, and looked with an air of suspicion on Philips and his companion, who were now advancing on each side. Any signal to them to halt, such as firing a musket, would only have increased the suspicion of the Indian, and they were too distant to hear his voice. Lewis, therefore, took from his pack some beads, a looking glass, and a few trinkets, which he had brought for the purpose, and leaving his gun, advanced unarmed towards the Indian,

who remained in the same position till he came within two hundred yards of him, when he turned his horse, and began to move off slowly ; Captain Lewis then called out to him in as loud a voice as he could, repeating the word " Tabbabone" which in the Shoshonee tongue, means white man ; but looking over his shoulders, the Indian kept his eyes on Philips and the other, who still advanced without considering the impropriety of doing so at such a moment. A signal was now made for them to halt—this Philips obeyed, but the other not observing it, still went forwards, seeing Philips halt, the Indian turned his horse about as if to wait for Captain Lewis, who now reached within one hundred and fifty paces, repeating the words " Tabba-bone," and holding up the trinkets in his hands, at the same time stripping up the sleeve of his shirt to shew the colour of his skin. The Indian suffered him to advance within one hundred paces, then suddenly turned his horse, and giving him the whip, leaped him across the creek, and disappeared in an instant among the willow bushes. This was a sad disappointment to the party, who now resolved to follow the track of the horse in the hope of arriving at the Indian camp, but though they advanced twenty miles, they were not able to discover the course of the flying Indian.—The next day they continued their course along the stream, and at the distance of about seven

miles, found it so diminished in breadth, that they were enabled literally to bestride the Missouri. They had now reached the hidden source of that river, which had never before been visited by white men, and as they quenched their thirst at the spring from which it first issued, and which was in fact the commencement of that mighty stream along which they had travelled for three thousand miles, they felt themselves requited for all this labour and difficulty. They were now close to the top of that ridge which, as has been mentioned, divides America and separates the streams which flow into the Atlantic on the East from those which run into the Pacific on the west; it was therefore, with feelings of painful anxiety, that they now began to look out for the waters of the Columbia—nor will it be wondered at, when it is recollected that the discovery of this was like finding a path which should conduct them to their journey's end.

Their search for this was not difficult, for after following a descent much more steep than that on the eastern side, they reached at the distance of three-quarters of-a-mile, a stream of cold clear water running westward. Philips was an enthusiast on his fondness for travelling —he could only think of the success which had attended their course hitherto, and of the delight of having in one day visited the sources of two waters which were in the course, to travel

through such a distance, and to visit oceans so widely separated. On the next morning, when the whole party set forward, they soon discovered two women, a man, and some dogs, standing on a height at the distance of a mile before them. The man instantly fled, and as they found afterwards, for the purpose of acquainting his companions with the news; the women, however remained, and seeing no chance of escape, they hung down their heads in expectation that they were immediately to be put to death. Philips and his companions instantly put down their rifles, and advancing towards them took the women by the hand, raised them up, and repeated the words "'Tabba-bone," at the same time stripping up their shirt-sleeves to prove that they were white men, (for their hands and face had become by exposure quite as dark as that of the Indians). This had the effect of relieving them from their alarm, and by their means it was, that the party were conducted towards the camp where their countrymen were. Accordingly, they marched about two miles, when they met a troop of nearly sixty warriors mounted on excellent horses, and riding full speed towards them. Their Chief, who was with two men in front of the body, seeing that Captain Lewis had laid aside his gun, went back to inform his companions that the strangers were friends. The three men now leaped from their horses, came up to Captain Lewis and

embraced him with great cordiality, putting their left arm over his right shoulder and clapping his back, at the same time applying their left cheek to his, and frequently shouting out —"Ah he e! Ah he E!" "I am much pleased, I am much rejoiced." The main-body of the warriors now came forward, and the whole party received their caresses together with no small share of the grease and paint with which their new friends daubed their faces; after this embrace Lewis offered them a pipe to smoke, but before they would receive this mark of friendship, they pulled off their buskins, a custom, as it was afterwards understood, which indicates the sincerity of their professions—as if, in fact, they meant to convey that they would deserve to go constantly barefoot, if they proved faithless, a penalty by no means light to those who rove over the thorny plains of their country. After smoking a few pipes, some small presents were distributed among them, with which they seemed well pleased, particularly the blue beads and the vermillion.

Having thus found those who could act as guides, and persuaded them to accompany him, Captain Lewis set out on the following day to return to the falls, where he had left his companions. On this journey an accident happened, very characteristic of savage life:—their stock of provisions being very scanty, Captain Lewis had sent a hunter considerably a-head of the party, in order to find some game, this ex-

cited the suspicion of the Indians, who immediately said, that he was gone to apprize his companions of their approach, in order that they might attack them. To do away such injurious suspicions, Captain Lewis assumed a serious air, he told the Chief that he pardoned their distrust, because they were ignorant of the character of white men, among whom it was disgraceful to lie, and entrap even an enemy by falsehood; that if they continued to think thus meanly of their new friends, they might be assured no white man would ever come to supply them with arms and merchandize. This accordingly, for the present, allayed their apprehensions, and they were proceeding along, when, just as they had passed one of the narrows, they saw an Indian who had been sent out to watch the hunter's motions, riding towards them at full speed —on coming up, he spoke a few words, when the whole troop instantly dashed forwards as fast as their horses could carry them. Astonished at this movement, Philips and his companions were borne along for nearly a mile, before they learned that all this hurry was occasioned by the Indian having announced that the white man had killed a deer. This was the joyful intelligence that had occasioned all this confusion, and when they reached the place where the hunter had thrown out the intestines of the animal he had just killed, the Indians dismounted in the greatest haste to pick up the offal, and ran, tumbling over each

o her like famished dogs: each tore away whatever part he could, and began to devour it instantly; some had the liver, some the kidneys, some the heart. It was indeed impossible, as Philips thought, as he saw these wretched men ravenously feeding on the filth of animals, not to perceive how nearly the ignorant savage approaches the lower animals, whose whole waking hours are spent either in planning the capture of its prey, or in devouring it.

Though this ravenous disposition represents the Indians in a very unfavourable light, there was one circumstance in their conduct which deserves to be recorded, and indeed is worthy of imitation—though suffering with hunger, they did not attempt, as they might have done, to take the whole deer or any part of it by force, but contented themselves with what had been thrown away by the hunter; they were *just*, even at the moment that they shewed the strongest marks of barbarism. When the deer was skinned, and after reserving a quarter of it for his own people, Lewis gave the rest of it to the Chief to be divided among the Indians, who immediately devoured nearly the whole of it raw.

The next day, Captain Lewis and the Indians met his friends at the place where he had expected. As soon as they appeared in sight, the wife of the interpreter recognized her countrymen with signs of the most extrava-

gant joy, and by sucking her fingers indicated that they were her native tribe. As the Indians drew near, a woman made way through the crowd towards this poor creature, whose name was Sacajawla, and embraced her with the most tender affection; their meeting indeed, was so tender, that it affected Philips. They had been both companions in childhood, and in the wars with the Minnetarees, they had been taken prisoners together, and had shared the rigours of captivity, till one of them had made her escape with scarcely a hope of ever seeing her friend released from the hands of her enemies. While Sacajawia was renewing among the women, who belonged to the Shoshonees, the friendship of former days, Captain Clarke went forwards, and was received by Captain Lewis and the Indian chief; who, after the first salutation was over, conducted him to a sort of circular tent of willows; here he was seated on a white robe, and the Chief immediately tied in his hair six small shells resembling pearls. The mocassins of the whole party were then taken off, and after much ceremony the smoking began. After this the conference was opened, and Sacajawla was sent for to interpret; she came into the tent, sat down, and was beginning to perform her office, when in the person of the Chief she recognized her brother—she instantly jumped up, and ran and embraced him, throwing over him a blanket and weeping

with joy. The Chief himself was moved, though not in the same degree: after some conversation between them, she returned to her seat and attempted to interpret, but the pleasure of being restored to her friends every moment overpowered her, and she was frequently interrupted by her tears.

With such means of communicating with these Indians, it is not surprising that a satisfactory arrangement was speedily made, which secured to the expedition the assistance of the Snoshonees, who promised not only to guide them across the mountains, but to traffic with them for horses; this done, they had leisure to examine the different objects which they now saw for the first time, the appearance of the white men, their arms, their cloathing, the canoes, the strange looks of the Negro servant, his black skin and curled hair, and the sagacity of a dog which was with the expedition, all these by turns excited their surprise; but their astonishment was most raised by a shot from an air gun, which Captain Clarke always carried with him, and the construction of which they could not be made to comprehend.

In order still more to engage their services, several presents were distributed among them, which they appeared to receive with the greatest satisfaction; to the Chiefs, medals, uniform coats, scarlet leggings and tobacco; to the rest, mocassins, knives, beads, and looking-glasses.

The next object of the party was to procure from them by traffic, a sufficient number of horses to transport their baggage across the mountains, and as the little articles they had to give in exchange, were very attractive in the eyes of the savages, they soon obtained twenty-nine, which was supposed to be sufficient for their purpose; they also persuaded an old man, who understood the geography of the country lying at the west side of the rocky mountains, to accompany them as guide; and after various consultations, which served to convince them of the difficulties which lay before them, they at last set out in the direction of the north-west.

They were now, however, leaving the district where the hunters had been able to procure them such plenty of provisions, and would be obliged to content themselves with such food as satisfied the Indians, and this was principally salmon. The cold was also another source of difficulty, for the winter season was near at hand, and the height to which they had ascended was very great: on the 21st of August the air was so cold, that the water which stood in vessels was frozen to the depth of a quarter of an inch in the course of a night, the ink froze in the pen, and the low grounds were white with hoar frost; indeed provisions were becoming so scarce, that the natives themselves were hastening from the country to that side of the rocky mountains which the expedition had left,

where they hunt the Buffaloe, and pass the winter till the return of summer invites them again to the Columbia, and to add to all this, the hunters would be quite unable to procure them food, for they would find at the western side of the mountains no animals of a kind larger than a pheasant or a squirrel, and of these only a few. As none of these difficulties, however, was sufficient to deter the party from proceeding, the boats were immediately sunk by means of large stones, till their return, and such articles as were too heavy for being transported, were buried in a large hole dug to receive them, and covered up so privately that the Indians were not aware of it. It is but justice, however, to say, that they never exhibited the least sign of dishonesty, never touching any thing which they saw lying about, though to them they were most tempting articles, and when they borrowed any thing, they always returned it with the greatest fidelity.

Though these people possess so many good qualities, it is to be recollected that they were savages, and had the faults which might be expected in people so ignorant; the leaders, therefore, of the party along with Philips, were obliged to hold many consultations upon the best way of keeping them in good humour; sometimes they distributed small presents among them; at others, they brought out the violins, and made the men dance to the great delight of

the Indians; they also gave them an equal share of whatever provisions they had, making no distinction between them and their own followers; and, in short, succeeded so well, that they appeared to regret that the time of separation was drawing near.

It happened one day, that one of the women who had been leading two of the horses which carried the luggage, halted at a stream of water about a mile behind, and sent on the two horses by a female friend; on inquiring of the Chief the cause of her stopping, he answered with great appearance of unconcern, as if there was in it nothing extraordinary, that she had dropped behind to lie in, and would soon come up with the party. In fact, Philips was astonished to see her in about an hour's time, come on with her new born infant, apparently in perfect health.

Without particularizing, however, the transactions of each day, it will suffice to mention, that these friendly Indians having assisted the expedition, in making the necessary preparations for their journey across the mountains, and seen them provided with horses, took their departure for the plains where they intended to winter, leaving with the party the old man, who had promised to act as guide, and his four sons. The journey on which they now entered lasted from the 18th of August, when they left their canoes on the Missouri, to the 7th October,

when they again embarked in canoes, which they had themselves made, on the river Kooskooskee; they were assisted in this journey by the few families whom they met on their route, and yet so much were they straitened for food, that they were frequently obliged to feed on horse flesh.

When they had embarked in their canoes on the Kooskooskee, they had a succession of the most abrupt and dangerous rapids to encounter; these, however, they surmounted with so much address and courage, that the Indians used to run along the tops of the rocks that overhang the river, astonished at the efforts of the white men. In their course they met with many tribes of Indians, who received them with great hospitality, but there would be great sameness in describing them, their customs and appearance being almost exactly similar, and the ceremonies of smoking with the Chiefs, explaining the object of the expedition, and bestowing the presents, being repeated in every tribe. Amongst the Sokulks, Philips observed with great satisfaction, the great respect which they shewed to old age; amongst other marks of it, he observed in one of the houses an old woman perfectly blind, and who, he was informed, was more than a hundred years of age; in this state she occupied the best part of the house, seemed to be treated with great kindness, and whatever she said was listened to

with reverence and attention; how much were it to be wished that every one would reverence the aged, after the example of these untutored Indians. They were also by no means intrusive, and as their fisheries supplied them abundantly, appeared contented, nor did they, like some others, importune the party by begging.

On the 7th November, Philips and the rest of his party first got sight of the ocean, the object of all their labours, and which they now felt as the reward of all their anxieties. This view raised their spirits, and they were presently further cheered by the roar of the distant breakers, they therefore went on with great cheerfulness, under the high mountainous country which continued along the right bank; the shore was however, so bold and rocky, that they could not find any spot fit for an encampment. They found that this place is much frequented by ships, both British and American, who come during the summer to buy furs from the natives, the people were not consequently strangers to white men, and had many little articles of luxury or shew, and particularly of blue beads, which they prefer to every other thing, and use as money in their dealings with one another. They were, generally speaking, of a more mild and gentle character. than those on the eastern side of the Stony Mountains; in many other respects also, they were very different from one

another, some very honest, and others of a thievish disposition, some tall and handsome, and others ill shaped and dwarfish. Their languages, likewise, were very different, so that the neighbouring tribes could not always converse together, on which account, the intercourse between the new-comers and the natives, was often carried on with difficulty.

The following, for example, was the circuitous mode in which Philips was obliged to communicate to the Chapunish tribe, any thing he was desirous of saying to them. In the first place, what was originally said in English, was translated into French for Chaboneau, the interpreter, he interpreted it to his wife, in the Minittaree, she then put it into Shoshonee, and a young man, a Shoshonee, who had been taken prisoner by this tribe, and by long residence among them had acquired their dialect imparted to the Chapunish.

Thus arrived, however, at the end of their journey, it became an object of the first consideration to fix upon a spot for their winter quarters, for they could not hope to return till the snow was melted on the mountains, and also to ascertain what supplies of provisions they could obtain, either by traffic with the inhabitants, or through the activity of their hunters; for both these purposes Philips by directions of the commanders set out with five men, and after a very fatiguing course at last pitched upon an eligible

INSIDE OF A HUT.

spot, about 200 yards from the waters edge, and 30 feet above the high tides; they also met with such numerous herds of Elk as promised them plenty of provisions during the winter. On their way back towards their companions they met three Indians who were returning to their village at some little distance, loaded with fresh salmon which they had just caught, and at their request Philips accompanied them. Arrived at their huts, they laid before Philips and his party with much hospitality, in a bowl made of light coloured horn, a kind of syrup, the juice of a kind of berry common in the country, and very pleasant to the taste; of these berries, a bread was also prepared, which, being boiled with roots, forms a soup, which was served in neat wooden trenchers; this, with some cockles, was their repast. In the mean time, the squaw examined Philips's dress, and in particular his mocassins, and finding some repair wanting, she immediately brought a small leather bag in which she kept the awls, and split sinew, and put them to rights; when their guests appeared disposed to sleep, new mats were spread near the fire, where they lay comfortably till morning. It is pleasant, thought our traveller, to observe so much kindness of disposition amongst those, whom we are accustomed to look down upon as savages; indeed, in the present instance, there was a neatness in their houses, and a cleanliness in their persons, which might

reproach many who dwell in civilized countries. On the following day, which was the third from his departure, he returned to acquaint his companions, with the result of his observations, and found that they had added by hunting, to their stock of provisions.

In the fort, which the party now erected, they were obliged, very much against their wish, to remain till the 1st of April; about the middle of March, however, they became seriously distressed for want of food, for the Elks, their usual subsistence, had at length, deserted their usual haunts in the neighbourhood, and retreated to the mountains; they were too poor to purchase other food from the Indians, for their long journey had exhausted all the stock they had brought with them, so that they were sometimes reduced, (notwithstanding all the exertions of the hunters,) to a single days provisions in advance. This therefore, was an urgent cause for their departure; but it was also supposed, the men might be benefited by leaving the coast, for the constant rains, and the confinement within doors, had rendered them unhealthy. During the winter they had been very industrious in dressing skins, so that they had now a sufficient quantity of clothing, besides between three and 400 pairs of mocassins, but the whole stock of goods on which they were now to depend, either for the purchase of horses or of food, during the long tour

of between 3000 and 4000 miles, was so much diminished, that it might all be tied in two pocket handkerchiefs. In fact, they had nothing but six blue robes, one of scarlet, a coat and hat of the United States artillery uniform, and some old clothes trimmed with ribbon. They felt therefore, that their whole dependance must be on their guns, which were all in excellent order. The powder had been secured in canisters, and though on many occasions these had been immersed in water, they had remained perfectly dry, and they were possessed of 140 pounds of it, with twice that quantity of lead, a stock quite sufficient for the route homewards.

Before the expedition set out on its return, Captain Lewis gave to the Clatsop and Chapunish Indians, a certificate of the kindness and attention, he had received from them; he also thought it right to circulate among the natives several papers, one of which was also posted in the fort, to mention that the persons whose names were annexed, and who were sent out by the American government, to explore the interior continent of North America, had penetrated the same, by the way of Missouri and Columbia rivers, to the discharge of the latter into the Pacific Ocean, where they arrived on the 14th of November, 1815, and departed on the 23d March, 1816, on their return, by the same route by which they had come out.

But it will not be necessary to detail the various particulars of their journey homewards. It will suffice to say, that their greatest difficulty arose from want of food. The principal food of the natives at this time was a bulbous root, called wappatoo, the manner of gathering which deserves a particular description. It grows in the mud at the bottom of the numerous ponds which cover the plains, and is collected by the women chiefly, who go out in canoes from ten to fourteen feet in length, two feet wide and nine inches deep; shallow though this may be, it is sufficient to contain a single person, and several bushels of roots, yet so very light, that a woman can carry it with ease; she takes one of these canoes into a pond, when the water is as high as the breast, and by means of her toes, separates from the root this bulb, which on being freed from the mud rises immediately to the surface of the water, and is thrown into the canoe. In this manner these patient creatures remain at work for several hours, even in the depth of winter.

It was on the 7th of May, that the party reached that spot on the Kooskooskee, where they had concealed such articles as they imagined they should have no occasion for. On the 10th of May, they recovered their horses, and found their saddles in the spot where they had buried them; they now prepared for their journey across the mountains, but the snow was

too thick on the ground to permit them doing it in safety, they therefore chose a spot for a camp, and employed themselves in making additions to their stock of provisions; and as their hunters were excellent marksmen, and their rifles good, they were ennabled to regale their Indian friends, who encamped about them in great numbers, and to whom animal food was a great rarity. It will perhaps surprize the reader to learn, that with so much game in their neighbourhood, their chief subsistence should be roots, but the fact is easily accounted for. The Elks and Deer, are too wary to suffer the Indians to approach so near them, that their arrows could reach them; hence they seldom get a meal of flesh more than once a month.

The party now recrossed the mountains, and proceeding down the Missouri, in due time, after suffering great hardships from the cold and from want of provisions, arrived at the place where they had sunk their boats and buried their stores; these they quickly raised, and now proceeded down the stream, a party under orders of one of the serjeants being ordered to conduct the horses to the forks of the Jefferson river by a nearer way across the plain, and to wait there till joined by their companions. Of the trouble however, of attending upon the horses they were soon eased by the Indians, through whose country they were now travelling, and who in this respect were very diffe-

rent from those they had left on the Western side of the mountains. These followed their track so secretly that the hunters never could light upon them, though night after night they by degrees carried every one off; fortunately this happened at a time when these animals were no longer essentially necessary to their progress, and therefore without delaying to make a search which would in all probability be fruitless, the serjeant and his party, no longer obliged to pursue their course by land, resolved to make the best of their way to the river, and having no means of building canoes of timber, formed for themselves such as they had seen among the Mandans, and other tribes—two sticks were tied together so as to form a round hoop, which served for the brim, while a second hoop was made for the bottom of the boat, in the same way, and both secured by sticks from the sides of the hoops, making a frame work of a basin shape, seven feet in diameter and sixteen inches deep. This, when covered with skins drawn closely and tied with thongs, was sufficiently large to carry six or eight men with their loads, and in this machine, they passed in perfect safety through the most difficult shoals and rapids of the river, without ever taking in water even during the highest winds, and at last reached the forks where their companions had arrived but a short time.

The whole party thus happily united, and

now arrived in a district where they found trees for their purpose, constructed a sufficiency of canoes to replace those which the weather had rendered unserviceable or accident had destroyed and proceeded without further delay to Fort Mandan, where they held a council of the Chiefs, in the hopes of inducing some of them to accompany them to the United States. Here, however, Philips resolved to part from his companions, Captain Lewis and Clark, and to take advantage of the company of a trader whom they met here, and who was about to set out by a well known track to Chipaway, which lay 600 miles in a due easterly direction, not very distant from the southern shore of Lake Superior.

He had followed the course of the Missouri from its confluence with the Mississippi to its source, and as his object in joining the expedition had been to see as much of the North American continent as possible, it is obvious that much time would be unnecessarily lost in returning by the same way to the point from which he had set out, whereas he had now an opportunity not only of seeing new ground, a great inducement to one who travels for information, but of visiting the British Settlements in North America.

In order, however, that the young reader may understand this, he must be reminded that at the distance of about 600 miles East of Fort Mandan,

Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario, form a vast irregular chain of inland seas, stretching from west to east, dividing the possessions of the English, which are 1500 miles broad, and 700 long, from those of the United States; and as Fort Mandan was the nearest point in his course to the most westerly of them, Lake Superior, it will at once appear why he availed himself of the means of reaching that point where he could have the advantage of water carriage through an extent of nearly twenty degrees of longitude, for once arrived at the farthest extremity of Lake Ontario, he could take advantage of the Saint Lawrence to reach Montreal and Quebec, before the ice should render that river unnavigable, and then shape his course either to England or to the United States as an opportunity might happen to present itself.

The person with whom Philips had engaged to cross the country to Chipaway, was one of that numerous body, who carry on a trade with the Indians for furs. He had wintered amongst the remote tribes, who dwell in the west of the great continent of North America, between the Stony Mountains and Canada, several hundred miles north of the track which Philips and his party had pursued. after leaving Fort Mandan; and having sent his canoes along the course of rivers and lakes, which led to Lake Superior, he was about to join them with all the expedition

he could use. After two days, therefore, they set out, and occasionally using horses to cross the plains and forests which lay in their way, but through which there was a very good Indian path, and sometimes in canoes, when the course of the rivers favoured them, they arrived at the great portage of Lake Superior, in the short period of sixteen days. In such a rapid journey, it may well be supposed, Philips had not time for much observation, except what the country he passed through afforded him; his companion, however, had traversed almost every part of that extensive region which the fur company of Canada visited, and Philips was enabled from his information, to add considerably to his own stock. The first, and by far the most interesting account, was that concerning the traffic in which he was himself engaged, and which carries those who embark in it to the astonishing distance of 4000 miles west of Montreal; Philips, however, was better able to understand this, from the journey which he had just finished. The merchants who are associated to conduct it, are either natives of Canada or Englishmen, and employ no less than fifty clerks, seventy one interpreters, 1120 canoe-men, and thirty-five guides, who are attended by about seven hundred Indians, men, women, and children. The goods which are found to be most in demand among the different tribes, are coarse cloth, arms, and ammunition, tobacco, cottons, threads

and twine, cutlery and ironmongery, kettles of brass and copper, hats, shoes and hose. "I fear," said Philips to his informant, whose name was Dixon, "I fear you have forgotten to include spirituous liquors amongst the commodities you barter,"—"at first," answered Dixon, "it was a custom not to sell any thing to the natives, but unfortunately it was not long adhered to; some worthless men, who soon after engaged in the trade, first introduced it among them, and the savages once having tasted, afterwards refused to deal with those who did not come provided with their favourite liquor; and now, I regret to say it forms one of the principal articles of traffic."

These commodities are made up into packages in Montreal, and the necessary number of canoes purchased, the expedition sets out about the beginning of May, when the rivers and lakes are free from ice. To see one of those slender vessels heaped up with goods, and sunk with her gunwale within six inches of the water, one would think they never could reach their destination; and yet so expert are the canoe men that accidents rarely happen.—"The detachment continued Dixon "which thus leaves Montreal in the beginning of May, arrives at the grand Portage upon lake Superior about the middle of June. It is to trade with these with the furs which I collected in the course of my winter traffic, that I am come, and though they are not

yet arrived, yet in less than a week you will see upwards of 1200 men, and during the fortnight that this number of persons will remain together an opportunity will be afforded you of learning several interesting particulars concerning our proceedings. In that time we settle our accounts together, receiving from the party that came up from Montreal the articles necessary for carrying on the trade during the ensuing winter, and returning the furs which we have already collected."—"But have you," asked Philips, "water carriage the whole way?"—"Far from it" answered Dixon. "In the course of our progress westward from Montreal, we have the advantage of either navigable lakes or streams to the extremity of Lake Superior, but after that, we are often obliged to transport the canoes and their lading across the distance which separates the different rivers along which we proceed. This distance is only sometimes twenty or thirty paces, but it is at other places thirteen miles; and the number of these carrying places, or portages, as they are called, is no less than 130, nor is this the only obstacle; we are obliged when we meet with rapids, and you know how frequently they occur, to unload the canoes, and tow through two hundred of them, whilst the cargoes are conveyed on men's shoulders by land." "But this," said Philips, "must be a very tedious course, and besides the time consumed before your furs can be sold in England

and Ireland, so as to give you a return, must be very long." "The statement of the time it takes is curious," said Dixon, "and will give some idea of the difficulties which commerce is able to overcome."

"We send our orders to England say in October 1800
They are made up and Shipped from London, March 1801
They arrive at Montreal, June 1801
They are arranged for Traffic with the Indians, and sent from Montreal, May 1802
They arrive in the Indian country, and are exchanged for furs the following winter 1802-3
Which furs come to Montreal, Sept. 1803
And are Shipped for Great Britain and Ireland, where they are sold, April 1804"

"It is not surprising, therefore, that these articles which are so much worn by the upper classes of our country women in muffs, tippets, &c. should sell at high prices, when we consider the time, labour, and expense at which they are procured."

"As you will see the Lake Superior, and also the course of the St. Laurence from Montreal to the entrance into it, it is not necessary to describe it to you, but the following is a slight sketch of the route leading from the spot on Lake Superior, to which we are now journeying to

Fort Chipewyan, which is the remotest point at which our traders have established themselves.

"From this place then, the Grand Portage, at Lake Superior the goods are conveyed by men for miles, over hills and mountains, to the canoes that are to proceed to the North west; these are not half the size of the canoes which come from Montreal. At the distance of about sixty miles they reach the *highest land,* as it is called. This high land, however, it should be understood, is not that before mentioned, as dividing the streams of the Missouri from those of the lakes, but a ridge of mountains lying northwards of the lakes, and which separates the waters which flow into the Atlantic ocean from those that discharge themselves into Hudson's Bay, and the ocean lying to the north. From this elevated ground, therefore, we proceed with the current, and cross many a lake, and wind along many a stream, which it would be uninteresting to detail to you, until we reach the before mentioned Fort Chipewyan; the face of the country during this first part of the route is generally a wild scene of huge hills and rocks, separated by stony vallys, lakes, and ponds, the ground, where there is any soil, being sheltered by oak, elm, ash, maple, and pine. It will give you some idea of the difficulties we have to surmount, that after setting out we have not advanced two miles till we are obliged to unload and carry our packages 600 paces; after three miles

and a-half then occurs another portage of 680 paces, and in the next three miles, a third portage of nearly half a mile. In this way we toil on, sometimes sailing down the rivers or crossing the numerous lakes in our canoes, at other times carrying them and our merchandize across the distance which separates any two of them, and which are therefore called Portages,—and at last we reach Lake Winnipick, which is indeed capitally situated for the purposes of the fur trade. This fine lake communicates with the southern shores of Hudson's Bay by two rivers called the Severn and the Nelson, and is connected with the head waters of the Missouri, which you have just left, by the Assimboin, and Red rivers; there are two trading establishments on it. The country on each side consists of plains, where herds of buffalo and Elk graze at full liberty; the eastern side abounds in beavers, bears, and deer. The banks of the Red river, which runs into the south, is inhabited chiefly by the Assimboins, who confine themselves to hunting the buffalo, and trapping wolves. They never eat the wolves, but make tallow with their fat, and dress their skins which they exchange with us. The buffaloe, which they do not immediately want for food or clothing, they pound into *pemican,* something like potted meat, and dress the skins for winter."

"But tell me," said Philips, "is the country as thinly inhabited as that through which I

have passed?" "Still more so," replied Dixon, "that afflicting disease, the small pox, got among them about thirty or forty years ago, introduced no doubt, by some traders. I had the account from a comrade who traded with them at that time, and he compared the rapidity with which it spread amongst them, to the fire which consumes the dry grass of a field. They knew no remedy against it, and the nature of the disease, which renders the whole body one sore, terrified them more than any sickness which might have destroyed life without much altering the appearance; this has cut down the natives of this vast continent, and the remnant whom it has spared, are gradually growing less by the free use of spirits, in which they indulge to excess; you see, therefore, they have not reason to rejoice at their intercourse with white men, for though we have introduced many comforts among them, we have also been the means of conveying to them, a loathsome disease, and intoxicating liquors." "Still, however," said Philips, "the cow pock invention will, it may be hoped, stop the further progress of the small pox; and surely some efforts will also be made, to give them something more valuable in exchange for their furs, than spirits, guns and ammunition." "Yes," said Dixon, "they now willingly present themselves to be vaccinated, and I myself have been the means of bringing amongst them some papers of that remedy. It is also true, that various efforts

have been made to civilize them ; but to tell you what I think, the habits and improvements which good and charitable men would introduce amongst them, can avail but little to alter them, whilst our trade has the effect of preventing their settling down to a quiet life, and the spirits we give them, not only makes them less fit for settled industry, but also tends to keep up every bad disposition which they had originally. If they were obliged also to labour more for their support, we might hope to see them improving, but it is unfortunately a bar to their improvement that there is not, perhaps, a finer country in the world for the residence of uncivilized men, than all the country about the Winnipick, it abounds in every thing necessary for the wants and comforts of such a people; fish, venison and fowl are in great plenty; whilst at the same time, the life they lead in procuring this food, requires that bodily exercise so necessary to health and vigour.

" But to proceed upon our course from lake Winnipick, the passage of our canoes to the extreme station of our trade to the north west is interrupted in the Saskashawan river by a rapid, in which the waters tumble over ridges of rocks that cross the river. At the foot of this waterfall a great quantity of sturgeon is caught, and it is frequented by numbers of Pelicans, and Cormorants watching for the fish which are killed or disabled by the fall. A succession of small lakes, interrupted here and there by rapids,

extends to the great Churchill river, where there is a Portage of some difficulty. It was to this point that Mr. Frobisher, an Englishman, who set out from Canada in 1774, for the purpose of trading with the Indians, met them as they were proceeding with their canoes filled with valuable furs.—They traded with him for as many as his canoes would carry, and in consequence of this transaction the portage has since retained his name. The next Portage after this is by far the most considerable, extending for thirteen miles; within a mile of its northern termination, the way leads across a very steep precipice, the ascent and descent of which appear equally impracticable; but the Canadians whom we employ contrive to surmount all these difficulties, even with their canoes and lading."

"I suppose," interrupted Philips, "the tops of this eminence affords you a fine view of the surrounding country: where lakes so much abound, the face of the land must be seen lying beneath you as a map." "Yes," replied Dixon, "it commands a most extensive prospect. There are several rivers winding most beautifully through the plains, which are skirted on each side by lofty hills covered with fine forests. At the time I ascended, there was every thing before me to increase the effect; my people were employed below pitching their tents in a fine meadow, in the distant part of which, herds of elks and deer were pasturing, several fires had

been lighted for preparing our suppers, and when I looked down upon the different objects, the moving figures, the tents, the columns of smoke arising in different directions, I almost forgot that I was so many days journey from the habitations of civilized men.

"This," concluded Dixon, "is my account of the journey made by the fur traders, in their course from Lake Superior, to the inland and northern parts of North America, to the Elk River, which runs still northwards with a strong current into the Lake of the Hills, in Latitude fifty-eight and a-half north, and where, on the southern side, is fort Chipewyan, the establishment to which I had been advancing, by so tedious and fatiguing a journey. It was then about the beginning of October, and though the cold winter was advancing, I lost no time in sending one party up the Peace river, to trade with the Beaver and Stony Mountain Indians, and another to the Slave river and Lake, to traffic with the inhabitants of that country. The party under me consisted of one hundred men, and the lake was our only means of support, for the provisions we had still remaining, it was necessary to keep untouched for the demands of the spring.

"I suppose," said Philips, "the natives were awaiting your arrival, in order to dispose of their furs for the commodities you brought." "The Indians met us," replied Dixon, "at

the fall of the year for that purpose; they then proceed to hunt the beaver, and do not return till the beginning of the following year, when they obtain by barter a fresh supply of our commodities. But I received most pleasure from studying the native manners, an opportunity which was amply afforded me during the time I remained amongst them." "This," said Philips, "was what I always most desired, but as in my course to the mouth of the Columbia, we got amongst a people who looked upon us with, perhaps, some alarm, and we passed through them always with rapidity, I was not able to observe many of their domestic habits." "But you will," answered his companion, "have every opportunity of gratifying your wish in this respect, in your journey from Lake Superior down the St. Laurence.

"Among the nations whom we visited, the occupation of the men is war and hunting, but the management of their huts is left to their women. These are kept in a subordinate state as amongst other savage tribes, but the severity of their labour is much diminished by their situation on the banks of lakes and rivers where they employ canoes."

It was in this way that Philips and Dixon conversed as they passed along the distance that separated fort Mandan from the grand portage of lake Superior: but when they came within view of this noble body of water, nothing

could exceed Philips's astonishment and admiration. He had now nearly gratified his long cherished wish of seeing foreign countries—he had crossed the wide Atlantic, and seen the vast rivers which water the continent of South America, but he had never seen a lake which the eye could not all at once take in at a view; but this was an immense sea, extending 381 miles from north to south, and 161 miles from east to west. What a noble country, thought he, for inland commerce, when Providence has afforded such means of intercourse, between the most distant parts by water; and this opinion was still more strengthened, when he recollected, that through the whole distance from Quebec to the fort which Dixon had been describing, the country is so thickly studded with lakes and rivers.

"Besides this, however," said Dixon, "there are many lakes and rivers north of those we have mentioned, though but few of them have been as yet accurately examined.—From fort Chipewyan, however, Mr. Mackenzie, who was a trader in our company about thirty years ago, proceeded in the first instance to the Pacific Ocean by a different road from that you took, for setting out from fort Chipewyan he *ascended* the Peace River, which led him westward through a narrow opening of the rocky mountains, which seem to divide as if it were in order to allow the stream to pass; from the source

of this river, which it is remarkable is but a few miles from that of the Columbia, he made his way westward, through many difficulties, to the shores of the ocean, about 600 miles north of the mouth of Columbia river. On another occasion he determined to follow the Peace River to its mouth, and embarking on it he found that after passing through a great body of water, called the Slave Lake, it flows out of its northern extremity, and after a course through nearly ten degrees of latitude, runs into a sea which is now generally supposed to wash the northern shores of north America, and to connect the waters of Baffin's Bay with those of Bhering's Straits forty miles wide, which separates Asia from America. Mackenzie here found every thing to convince him that it was part of a great sea; he was unable, for instance, to resist the swell which came in from the north; he felt the rising of the river, such as would be caused if the tide flowed up the mouth of a river; he saw also whales there. In the latitude of seventy degrees, however, he was unable to prosecute his design of further examination, the cold being so very intense as to obliged him to return with the knowledge he had acquired." "To me," said Philips, who had listened with great attention to his companion, whilst he gave him this explanation: "this is very interesting, and I only wish it had been in my power, when I was returning from the Pacific Ocean, to pass to the source of the Peace River, for in this way,

I should have enjoyed the satisfaction of passing from the Gulf of Mexico by the Mississippi, the Missouri, and the Columbia, to the Western Ocean, and from thence by the Peace River, the Lake of the Hills, the Slave River and Slave Lake, and Mackenzie's River, to the Northern Ocean; perhaps also, by making excursions east and west from the mouth of Mackenzie's River, I should have had the good fortune to ascertain that long disputed question, of a passage by the Northern Ocean from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean."—"I doubt much," replied Dixon, "that you would have found it practicable; when Captain Cook sailed through those straits, which are called after their discoverer, Commodore Bhering; on attempting to steer eastward along the northren shore of this continent, he was stopped by an impenetrable barrier of ice of unknown extent, which stretched, however, right across the strait from the shore of America to that of Asia. Mackenzie also found the face of the country so barren and desolate, and the few people he met there so intractable, that he was glad to return; but it is right also to be mentioned, that Mr. Hearne, another of our company, in a journey which he made to explore the country due-north of the Eastern extremity of the Slave Lake, saw another part of the sea, which is supposed to connect the two oceans, full twenty-five degrees, or 1800 miles eastward of the mouth of Mackenzie's River; so that, as I said before,

there is but little reason to doubt the existence of such a sea, although from the great coldness of the climate in this high latitude it is more than probable; for all useful purposes it will lie unnavigable.—

It was a few days after Philips's arrival at the grand Portage, and when all the traders were assembled, that a scene presented itself, the animation of which nothing that he had heard could afford him any idea of.—The fort where the merchants and their clerks assembled, was composed of several wooden houses, surrounded with strong pallisades, to guard against any sudden attack from the Indians; the hardy hunters, who had come down from the remote inland parts of North America with the furs which they had collected, were lodged in tents which they had pitched near the fort; and the rowers, who are for the most part Canadians, had drawn their canoes up on the bank, and lodged beneath them. Here this party, which consisted of not less than 1200 men, remained together for about a fortnight, and it deserves to be mentioned, that though the roving lives which many of these hunters lead from choice, must render them to a certain degree impatient of control, and from the circumstances of the case the authority of their employers must be relaxed, there was no violence in their conduct, each was paid his wages, and had the choice either of returning to Canada or of entering into a fresh agreement for the ensuing winter. And here Philips had an opportunity of observ-

ing the attachment which those people acquire for their hardy life; there were very few, as his friend assured him, but had come to the rendezvous, resolved to return with the homeward party to Montreal; but the opportunity they had here of conversing together soon altered this intention; each related his own exploits, and the various escapes which he had had, and some of them, indeed, were most wonderful, until at length they began to acquire a distaste for the quiet life to which they were returning, and eagerly sought a new engagement from the merchants.

There were three men whom Philips particularly remarked, who had been for several years hunting, on and beyond the rocky mountains, until at length, they thought it time to be tired of a hunting life: one of them was sixty-six years of age, and in one engagement with a tribe of hostile Indians had been actually scalped, and was obliged to wear a handkerchief on his head to protect the part; and yet he and his companions were amongst the first to ask a new engagement.

During their stay at the Portage, the northmen, as they are called, are regaled with bread, port, butter, liquor, and tobacco, luxuries which they never enjoy on their expeditions, and are then dispatched to their respective quarters;—those who were to go North in canoes to Fort Chipewyan, received the packages of goods with which they were to trade with the Indians; and the agents, assisted by their clerks, pre-

pared for their return by making up the furs in bundles, convenient for carriage, and with them Philips also resolved to take a passage.

At the appointed time, Philips embarked with those traders who were about to return to Montreal, in a vessel of seventy tons burden, which the fur company always use for transporting their commodities to and from St. Mary's, which lies on the opposite eastern extremity of Lake Superior, where its waters communicate with Lake Huron. This point of connection is called the Falls of St. Mary's, of which, however, the waters do not descend in one fall, but rush along a narrow rocky bed, in a deep and rapid current for nearly three quarters of a mile, where they flow into Lake Huron; at the foot of this, that is, at its junction with Lake Huron, immense quantities of fish abound, and the natives resort there in great numbers in the months of September and October, to collect their winter store of this provision.

Though the current is so violent, yet the extreme dexterity of the natives in guiding their canoes, enables them to pass down it without danger; and our travellers, who exchanged their large vessels for several canoes at St. Mary's, reached the extremity of it in safety, and there embarked with their packages of furs on board one of the small vessels which usually ply upon this lake; and proceeded on their course across Lake Huron with a favourable wind.

In point of size Lake Huron covers only one quarter of the surface occupied by Lake Superior. From the western shore an extensive range of islands stretches out in an easterly direction for 160 miles; many of them measuring from twenty to thirty miles in length, by ten or fifteen in breadth. Besides these, there are a vast number of smaller ones, grouped together in different parts of the lake, all which render the navigation extremely difficult.

It will give the reader some idea of the vast extent of the American Lakes, so far as they have been ascertained, to learn that Lake Superior covers twenty-one millions of acres; Lake Huron five millions, Lake Erie, 2,600,000, and Lake Ontario 2,300,000.

The weather was fine when our travellers commenced their voyage in the morning, but this lake is peculiarly liable to violent storms, and of this Philips had ample experience before many hours elapsed, for towards evening the sky grew dark and louring, distant thunder was heard, and the wind rose rapidly; night also came on, and it rained violently; apprehensive, therefore, lest they should be swamped in the middle of the lake, they steered for the shore, and having left some of their party to guard the merchandize aboard, they, with the assistance of some Indians, whom they found assembled round a blazing fire in an adjoining wood, reached a house where they passed the night, and the next morning proceeded on their

way; the storm having abated, and the weather proving in every respect favourable, except that there was still a considerable swell in the lake. The same evening they reached the straits, and finally landed at the town of Detroit in safety. This channel of Detroit is about forty miles in length and five in breadth, and, as has been before mentioned, connects Lake Huron with Lake Erie. The town stands on its western bank, which, as well as the opposite shore, is in a good state of cultivation, and scattered over with villages and farm houses; it contains about 200 houses and is strongly fortified. A rich wood skirts along the shores on either side, and the river was crowded with Indian canoes and bateaux; several larger fishing boats were also cruizing backwards and forwards, and the whole presented an animated and picturesque appearance.

They were several days on their passage through Lake Erie, it being between two and three hundred miles long, and about sixty wide; that is to say, it is at its greatest breadth as wide across as from Dublin to Holyhead, and is so deep, (affording from forty to fifty fathom of water) that in calm weather the largest vessels may securely ride at anchor in any part of it, but when stormy, the anchorage is not to be trusted, because the sands are loose, and give way. The height of the land along the coasts is very variable; in some places long ranges of

steep mountains rise from the very edge of the water, and in others, the shores are so flat, that when a strong wind drives the water towards the land, the country is inundated for miles.

On the western side of the lake, are several clusters of islands, which are richly wooded, and the water near the banks is covered with the flowers of the water-lily. The timber on these islands, principally oak and red cedar, is of such extraordinary size, that they are often carried forty miles distance to Detroit for sale. The islands are flat and marshy, and abound to such a degree with serpents and snakes, that it is dangerous to walk among the long grass; and in winter, when the lake is frozen between the main land and the islands, troops of bears are often seen traversing the ice, and are found rambling all over the islands.

As the vessel drew near the north-western extremity of the lake, Philips's anxiety increased with his approach towards the river Niagara, of which the celebrated falls had been one of his principal objects in visiting this part of America. The vast expanse of water which he had been hitherto traversing, here narrows to a space of scarcely more than 300 yards wide, and continues about the same breadth for the first few miles of the river which joins the waters of Erie to Ontario. The stream is, however, deep enough for vessels drawing nine or ten feet water, but the current is so extremely rapid and

irregular, and the channel so intricate on account of numberless large rocks in different places, that no other vessels than boats ever attempt to pass along it. In proceeding downwards, the river widens, no rocks are to be seen either along the shores or in the channel, and the waters glide smoothly along though the current continues very strong. The river runs thus evenly and is navigable with safety, for boats, as far as Fort Chippeway, which is about three miles above the falls; but here the bed again becomes rocky, and the rush of the current so violent, that were a boat by any chance to be carried but a short distance beyond Chippeway, where travellers usually stop, it must almost inevitably be dashed to pieces. This, therefore, is the place where the boats proceeding to Quebec are unloaded, and the merchandize is carried to Queenstown, which is a portage of nine miles. Philips, therefore, resolved to take advantage of the time, during which his companions would be thus engaged, to see the celebrated cataract of Niagara, the wonder of the natural world; and by the advice of one of his companions who agreed to join him, he engaged a canoe and men, and by keeping dexterously in the middle of the stream from Chippeway, reached an island, called Goat Island, which divides the river at the very falls. It was here, therefore, that he had his first view of what he justly considered one of the finest objects in nature. The white foam from the fall had appeared

rising like a cloud before him, for at least seven miles before he reached the spot, and the roar of the waters he could likewise plainly hear at the same distance; many travellers even assert, that both can be distinguished at a distance of forty miles, on a clear day, and when the wind blows from that direction.

The river Niagara is divided by the island into distinct cataracts, of which the most stupendous is that on the north eastern side, and is called the Horse Shoe Fall, from its resemblance to that shape. The height of this fall is estimated at 150 feet, and it is 600 yards broad. The other is denominated Fort Schloper Fall, and is only 1050 feet wide. Down both these cataracts the water dashes with the most tremendous impetuosity, into a gulf beneath, so dark and deep, as almost to make the head reel to look over it. The lofty banks on each side are covered with thick woods, which, together with the tremendous roar of the waters, and the cloud of white foam thrown up by the fall, form, altogether, a scene almost surpassing description for sublimity and grandeur.

It may well be supposed with what feelings of awe and wonder Philips gazed around him; while he thought within himself if so stupendous are the works of the creation, what must be the power of the Creator?

After some hours spent in enjoying this magnificent scene, he and his companion having

returned to Chippeway, by keeping their canoe in the middle of the stream, they set out to walk to Queenstown, whither the merchandize had in the mean time, been removed by the remainder of the party; here they found a steam-boat ready to set off, which was to proceed down the river and across Lake Ontario.

This was a large steam-boat, calculated for the carriage of goods as well as of passengers, her engine was of fifty-four horse power; which, though not so great as many others that ply upon the rivers and lakes of America, is sufficient for that course where there is no strong current. Our travellers, therefore, descended the river Niagara in her as far as the town of Newark, and sailed the next morning in the same steam-vessel at four o'clock.

Canada, the country into which Philips was now entering, is an extensive region of North America, lying between sixty-one and eighty-one degress of west longitude, and between thirty-two and forty-two of north latitude. The countries which bound it on the north, have been so little explored, that they are almost unknown to us; on the east it is bounded by New Britain and the Gulf of St. Lawrence; to the south lie its great lakes and the United States; and on the western side its boundary is quite undefined.

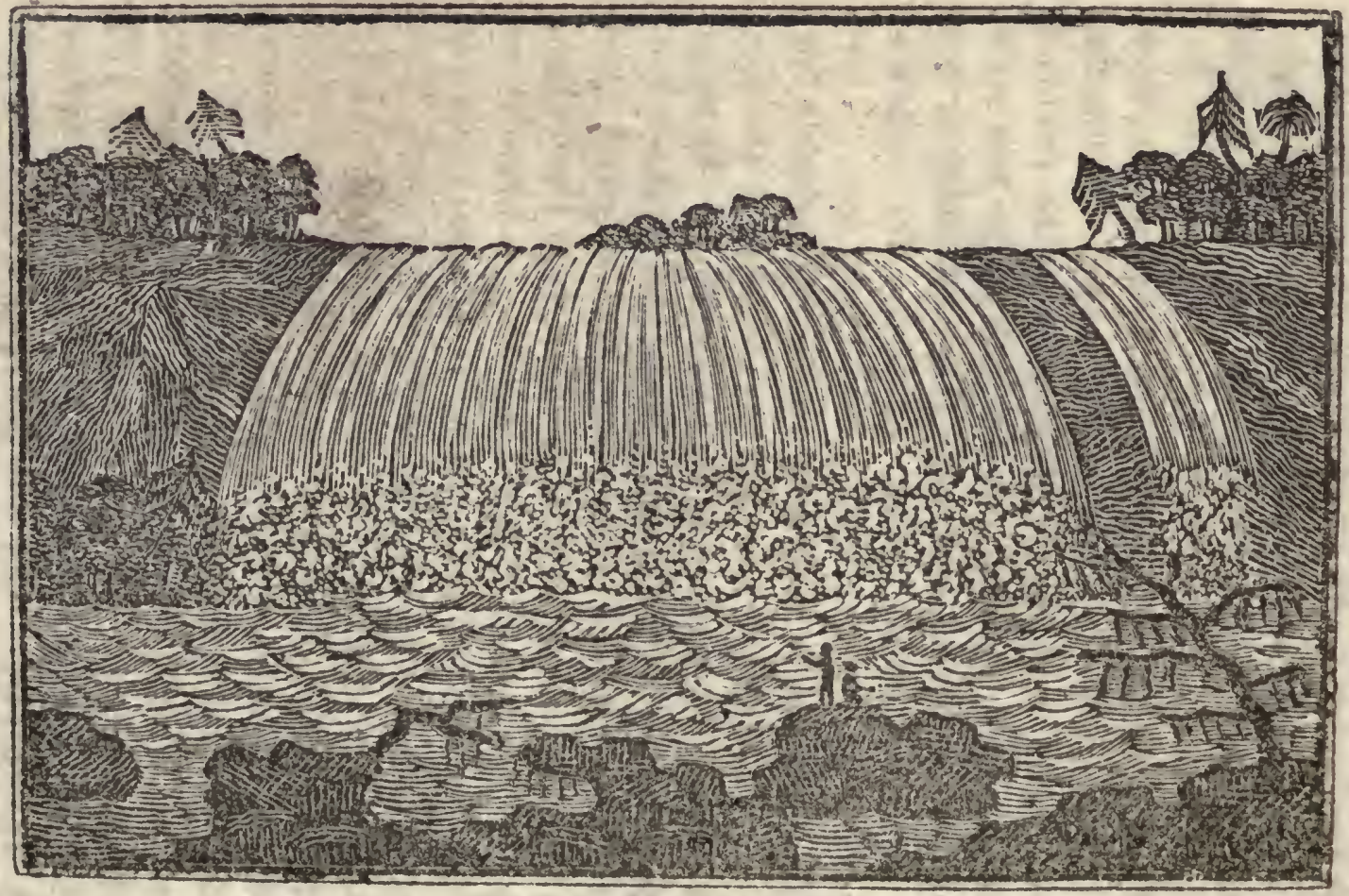
In the year 1791, Canada was divided by an act of the British Parliament into two provinces,

Upper and Lower Canada. To the north east lies Lower Canada, and Upper Canada is on the south west; the latter is divided into eight districts, and these are again subdivided into twenty-three counties.

Lower Canada is intersected by several ridges of lofty mountains, which, however, are mostly unexplored, and are only known to be covered with immense forests, over which range the wild animals of the desert, and the wandering tribes of savages, who prey on them for subsistence.

Canada, as is well known, is remarkable for its numerous rivers and lakes; amongst the former the St. Lawrence may be reckoned the most considerable. This river issues from Lake Superior, and flowing successively through Lakes Huron, Erie, and Ontario, falls into the ocean, after a course of 2,000 miles. Its breadth at the mouth is 90 miles, and it is navigable for ships of the line, 400 miles from the sea. The other important rivers of the country chiefly fall into the St. Lawrence.

Such is the swiftness with which the steamboats ply, that at noon they had reached the town of York, a distance of thirty-six miles; and in twenty-eight hours more, they were 161 miles further, at the town of Kingston, where the lake empties itself into the river St. Lawrence. The land on each side of the lake exhibits but little beauty, except that it is richly wooded,



FALLS OF NIAGARA.

but it is for the most part low and marshy, particularly on the north east coast. There are several islands at the eastern extremity of the lake, and below this in the channel of the St. Lawrence they are so numerous, that they have been named the Thousand Isles. The depth of water in the lakes varies considerably; in some parts it affords scarcely ten fathom, in others about fifty, but near the center a sounding line of 300 fathoms has been let down without reaching the bottom. The harbour of Kingston is very good, and there is also a fine dock-yard, where at the time that Philips visited it, were several large vessels building.

The rapidity with which ships were built there during the time of the war was quite astonishing. One of the men at work in the dock-yard told him that a three decker of 110 guns, called the St. Lawrence, was ready for sea in five months, from the day her keel was laid down; and two unfinished three-deckers which he saw lying there, were contracted for by a Shipwright, to be finished in three months; but the peace came, there was no longer occasion for their use, and they lay on the stocks half built.

After remaining a day at Kingston, our travellers embarked in one of those large flat-bottomed boats called bateaux, the only kind of vessel by which the river St. Lawrence is navigable down to Montreal, a distance of 210

miles, on account of the frequent recurrence of rapids, rocks, and shoals in the river, all which render this passage, perhaps, one of the most dangerous in the world, and prevent the bateaux-men from attempting to navigate it after dark, obliging them to take three days to pass to the town of Montreal.

The island of Montreal, which lies at the confluence of the Ottowa River with the St. Lawrence, is about thirty miles in length and ten in breadth, and contains many very flourishing towns, of which the most considerable are La Chine and Montreal; the former is situated near the foot of a high mountain, the summit of which commands a noble view of the river. Montreal is about eight miles from La Chine, and the approach to the town presents a very singular aspect—it has a vast number of spires and other lofty buildings, all of which, and nearly all the houses, are covered with bright tin plates, which in the sunshine have a most dazzling appearance, and which, from the dryness of the climate never contract rust, and are consequently so durable that many of the roofs have not been repaired for upwards of forty years. The city is a large and flourishing one, and contains many public buildings, of which the most worthy of notice is the store house for furs, belonging to the North West Company. Philips made some enquiries as to the usual prices of furs, and learned that, in

general, good bear skins sell for twenty dollars, (that being the current coin of the country) buffaloe seven, otter four, wolf one, and beaver from four to five dollars per pound, which is the quantity usually contained in one skin.

As the merchants with whom he had been travelling were proceeding no further than Montreal, he here quitted his party, and continued his course to Quebec 120 miles distant, up the St. Lawrence, in a steam boat. The whole of the left side of the river is in the highest state of cultivation, and thickly inhabited; dwelling houses are built almost all along its banks, and their gardens, which stretch down to the water's edge, almost all join each other, so that they present, as viewed from the river, one unbroken line of garden; and the inhabitants find this custom necessary to preserve communication with each other during the winter snows. The opposite side of the river is nearly a desert, and presents a striking contrast to this highly cultivated scene. They pursued an uninterrupted course along the river until they reached the town of Sorel, about forty-five miles below Montreal, which is situated where the Richelieu flows into the St. Lawrence; here, however, they only stopped to take in a supply of fire-wood for the steam engine, and continued their passage down the river, nothing particularly worth Philips's notice occurring on the voyage, except to note the different towns they passed,

amongst which was that of Trois Rivieres, situated at the mouth of the river Richelieu where it falls into the St. Lawrence. The whole length of the river from Montreal to Quebec is 180 miles, and nothing can be finer than the appearance the latter presents on approaching it by water—the high cliff on which it stands seems to tower over the river, and the tops of the houses being, like those of Montreal, overlaid with tin; the glittering roofs are seen at a distance long before the rest of the town can be discerned: the mountains here begin to rise, and render the scene more interesting, the country having hitherto been invariably flat.

Quebec is situated on a lofty point of land, at the junction of the river St. Charles with the St. Lawrence. It is divided into two parts, the upper and the lower Town, the latter lying close on a level with the water, and the former standing above it on rocks so steep, that they are almost inaccessible; its elevated situation renders it healthful and pleasant, while on the contrary the lower town is considered unwholesome, the streets being extremely narrow and confined, it is, therefore, chiefly inhabited by traders concerned in the shipping, all the wealthy inhabitants residing only in the upper town. The latter stands at the height of a thousand feet above the level of the river, and commands a most magnificent prospect of the St Lawrence, the St. Charles, and the whole

of the adjacent country. The climate of Lower Canada, of which Quebec is the capital, is very fine, and the soil extremely productive, particularly of small grain, small fruits, and garden vegetables of every description; currants, gooseberries, raspberries and grapes grow wild, the latter are particularly fine and abound in the woods. These fruits, as well as other commodities, the people carry to market in little carts drawn by dogs, that resemble the Newfoundland breed, and are extremely sagacious and tractable. Philips himself had not been many hours in Quebec before he had taken a drive in a small cariole drawn by several of them yoked together, and they not only drew him along safely but swiftly.

The variety of trees which grow in the forests of Canada is surprising, there being oaks, elms, ashes, pines, sycamore, chestnuts, and walnuts, besides many others not so well known. The sugar maple grows in all parts of the country, and is a very useful tree, as not only sugar is made from its sap, but vinegar, table beer, and an excellent spirit. The country people pierce these trees with an auger, and put a vessel beneath to catch the sap as it falls, which they refine by boiling till it is converted into sugar, and a sufficient quantity is thus procured for the supply of the inhabitants who seldom use any other.

As Philips had followed the course of the

great St. Lawrence from its entrance into lake Superior, and through the great chain of lakes to the city of Quebec, where it attains the breadth of two miles, he became desirous of going down the river to the sea, the more particularly as it would afford him the opportunity of visiting the great island of Newfoundland, which is situated at its mouth, and is so valuable to Great Britain for the cod fishery carried on there.

At this period of the year it was not difficult to procure a passage in one of the vessels which was going to the British settlement of St. John's, on the eastern coast of the island, for a supply of this useful article, and intended returning before the month of December, when the frost sets in and the navigation of the river is suspended till the month of April in the following year. During all this period the river from Quebec to the sea is not frozen over, but the force of the tides, even above that city, is constantly detaching the ice from the shores in such immense masses, that these, as they float down, would endanger the safety of any vessel they met in their way.

A little below Quebec the river, after passing the Isle of Orleans, which lies in the middle of the stream, widens to thirteen miles, and the appearance of the adjacent country is extremely beautiful, being interspersed with churches and villages, whose houses being always whitened,

form the most pleasing contrast with the dark woods which cover the rising grounds behind. Though this is the breadth, however, it is so interrupted by shoals and islands, that at one part the passage across is not half a mile between the buoys that mark the edge of the shoals. On entering the Gulf of St. Lawrence, which is distant 400 miles from Quebec, Philips found that the breadth across was 105 miles; his course carried him along the shores of New Brunswick, the Island of St. John's, the northern coast of Nova Scotia, and Cape Breton, all which belong to England; he next steered along the southern shore of Newfoundland, and doubling the south eastern point of that island, arrived without accident or adventure at the town of St. John's.

The Island of Newfoundland is situated on the east side of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and is, at its greatest extent, 380 miles long and about 280 wide. The country is covered with richly wooded hills and mountains, which rise more lofty in the interior parts than near the shores. The whole circuit of the coast of this island is full 900 miles, and abounds in bays and harbours, all so spacious, and so sheltered by the mountains, that vessels lie there in perfect security.

Newfoundland, as has been said before, is in the possession of the English, and is valuable on account of the great cod fishery that is

carried on there; the whole of the coast abounds in this fish, and all along the shores may be seen the dwellings and the store-houses of the English settlers engaged in this trade; but it is on the shoal called the Great Bank of Newfoundland that this fish is found in most abundance; this shoal, which for size may be compared to a mountain ridge under water, is not less than 330 miles long and 70 broad; the depth of water over it varies considerably in different parts, but in some places there are full sixty, and no where less than fifty fathoms; the bottom is covered with shells, and a quantity of small fish which serve as food for the cod, and are the means of collecting them in such numbers on the bank, for it is a singular fact, that though so many hundred vessels have been yearly loaded with them for two centuries past, yet this prodigious consumption has not lessened their plenty. But Great Britain does not enjoy the whole of this valuable trade exclusively; America shares a certain proportion of it with her by treaty, and it is computed that the number of vessels annually employed by both countries in the fishery does not amount to less than 3000, while there are full 100,000 persons engaged both on board the vessels and on shore in curing and preparing the fish for exportation; so that this fishery is not only a valuable branch of trade to the merchant, but a source of livelihood to many thousands of poor people.

The soil of this island is very unproductive, it yields the inhabitants scarcely more than a scanty crop of summer herbs, and affords but little grazing for cattle, they therefore obtain almost all their supplies of provisions from Great Britain and America. Their principal town is that of St John's, which lies on the eastern coast of the island; Philips, however, had not much gratification in stopping there, for he arrived immediately after a dreadful fire had taken place, by which nearly 200 houses had been burnt to the ground, and property destroyed to the amount of £500,000. This calamity, as may be supposed, had reduced the town to such a state of distress, that he only remained there while the vessel took in her cargo of fish, and then gladly availed himself of the opportunity of returning in her to Quebec.

But this voyage brought Philips acquainted with a person, who was able to give him a great deal of accurate information on a subject which had long interested him much. This was a young and intelligent seaman, who was the mate of a merchant vessel lying at Newfoundland, but whom some business for his employers called to Quebec. He had been for some time previous, a harpooner on board a Greenland Whaler, and having for some years spent a few months of each summer in those icy seas which lie north of the great continent of America, had even penetrated farther than any other whale

vessel, and was very competent to afford Philips all the information he required. From this mate, therefore, Philips set himself to obtain all the intelligence he could upon the subject—but we must previously inform the reader of the geography of these unfrequented shores.

The breadth of the North American continent, where it is widest, is not less than 8000 miles, that is, from Bherings Straits on the west, which separate Asia from America, to the eastern part of the Labrador coast. How far, however, this tract of land extends northwards, has been hitherto in dispute; some maintaining that the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans communicate by a sea which washes the shore of North America about the 70th degree of latitude, whilst others assert that the land stretches even so high as the north pole. In support of the first opinion, it was urged, that this sea of communication had been seen by two different persons, and at distinct places, in 1771 and 1789, and that the ships which used to sail up Davis's Straits and Baffin's Bay each year, in quest of whales, oftentimes killed animals of this species which had been previously harpooned by whale fishers in the Pacific, and therefore, that they must have passed by this way from one place of resort to the other, an opinion which gained strength from the rapid current which constantly set out of Baffins Bay, and was quite independant of tides. On the other hand, it

was said that as far as whalers had proceeded up Baffins Bay, no opening had been discovered westward—and one person had even asserted, that a large bay called Lancaster Sound, which lay considerably above the 70th degree of latitude, had nothing in its appearance to encourage the supposition that it would lead into the Pacific, and, was, moreover, at some distance from its mouth, closed in by high mountains stretching right across the head of it. To make this clearer it should be also mentioned, that the ships which sail on these northern expeditions, after passing the mouth of the St. Lawrence and the coast of Labrador, which lies north of the gulf of St. Lawrence, soon meet with an opening on the left, which leads due west into Hudson's Bay, of which we have already spoken, and another opening which extending due-north, separates the shores of East Greenland from that unknown and unexplored region lying north of Hudson's Bay—could Philips, therefore, have put either of these questions to rest, no doubt it would be productive of the greatest satisfaction; but he found this impossible, when he reflected on the length of time he had now been absent from his business, and therefore, he wisely contented himself with gleaning from his shrewd companion whatever had been observed; and also his own feelings in visiting those places, where the feet of Europeans had never before trodden.

It was on the first day of their voyage to

Quebec from St. John's, that the captain, having some fear of an approaching storm, lowered the top-masts sails, and made all things snug for the night, and thus having no more to do, Philips called the mate into his cabin, and requested him to give him his promised account, which he did in the following words.

"It was about the middle of April when I quitted Great Britain; we sailed from Aberdeen in the Lord Duncan, and favourable breezes bore us swiftly on our voyage. On the 10th day we passed the Shetland Isles, but at such a distance that its barren rocks and rugged shore were all that met the eye, our course lay nearly due westward, and we had a run of three and twenty days across the Atlantic before any thing of interest occurred. At this time the change of climate warned us that we were approaching the frozen regions, and as this was the first time I had ever visited that quarter, I looked forward with no small anxiety to seeing those great masses of ice, of which I had heard so much. It was on the morning of the succeeding day that the first of them met our view; what was my astonishment to see an enormous body of ice, full a thousand feet long, and forty high, floating along the water—nor is it possible to imagine any thing more beautiful than the variety of colours which these icebergs display; by night, as well as by day, they glitter with the most brilliant splendour, assuming different tints as the light changes on them.

Steering our course northwards to proceed up Davis's Straits, these objects gradually presented themselves more frequently, and soon my eye became almost familiar to them, though it may well be conceived how much I was at first struck with the singularity of the scene.—There was no land within sight, and as far as the eye could reach, nothing was to be discerned but these floating masses of ice, of various forms and sizes. Sometimes they passed the ship at a distance, and at other times they would approach so near as almost to strike against her; and from the great force with which their own size and the motion of the water carries them along, they might have produced the most serious consequences. During the passage up Davis's Straits, I observed the various colours that the sea assumed: in some places it appeared of a fine azure colour, in others it was black, brown, and green, though when we drew it up in vessels we could discern nothing peculiar in its tint; this changeful appearance could only be attributed to the colour of the sand at the bottom; for at one part, where the water seemed of a bright green, on sounding, soft mud of the same colour was taken up from a depth of 300 fathoms. Whalers usually calculate on being successful when they happen to come where the water is of a brownish colour; and so we found it, for in a short time we had killed fifteen fish, and stowed their blubber in casks on board. It was,

VIEW OF ICEBERGS.

indeed, a successful season, but we had brought out with us some Congreve rockets, with which we fired at them from a great distance, and never failed to strike them.

"Hitherto the weather had been almost uninterruptedly calm, when on the morning of the 7th of August, a severe gale arose, which threatened us with the most extreme danger: the waves began to swell, the great masses of ice came rolling along—the only chance of safety the ship now had, was to endeavour to force its way northwards, where the ice partially opened; but the channel was so blocked up that the utmost efforts of the crew were ineffectual; the ice closed in upon us, and we began to feel its pressure very severely, until at length it became a trial of strength between the ship and the ice—every support threatened to give way, the beams in the hold began to bend, and the iron tanks settled together. At this critical moment, when it seemed impossible for the ship to bear the encreased pressure much longer, by the heaving of the waves and the ice collecting under her, she was raised up several feet, while on either side, the ice, which was more than six feet thick, broke against her sides, curling back on itself: the great stress now fell on her bow, and after being again lifted up, she was carried with violence towards another of the vessels; every effort to avoid their getting foul of each other failed; the ice anchors and cables broke one

after the other, and at length the sterns of the two vessels struck with such force together, as to crush to pieces a small boat that could not be removed in time. The shock was tremendous; nothing less was expected than the loss of their masts, but at this eventful moment, by the mercy of providence, we were saved; the ice opened from the ships on each side; they again floated on, and got disentangled from each other without either having experienced any considerable damage. Accidents of this kind occur to the whalers almost every year, and frequently cause their complete destruction; the masses of ice piling over each other, and crushing in the sides and decks like an egg-shell, and burying the broken vessel in the ruin: the crew then having no resource whatever but to spring out of the ship, and take their chance of life upon the ice, until they can be taken up by some of the vessels in company.

"On the cessation of this gale, land was seen, which we found to be the western coast of Greenland; and soon afterwards drew towards it, near enough to perceive a number of strange wild looking people coming down to the shore, those who were formost seeming to advance with signs of fear and distrust; occasionally they retreated, then again came forward, stopped, listened, and each grasped a long knife firmly in one hand, while in the other he carried something resembling a lash-whip; this,

it was evident, they had with them for the purpose of driving their sledges, a kind of low car drawn by dogs, and which is calculated by its construction for using in icy regions. When they arrived on the shore, the Captain by signs invited them on board, pointing, at the same time, to a plank that he had laid down from the ship's side to the beach; but they seemed fearful of doing so, and soon perceiving in the vessel the Indian whom we had taken out with us to act as interpreter, they expressed the strongest desire that he should come ashore to them; this request was readily granted, though when the man went over to them, they retreated to a distance, and would not let him even touch them; by degrees their fears seemed to wear off, they advanced towards him, took some presents which he laid before them, and, at length, one of them took courage to exchange his knife for another which the Indian offered him. The captain now went ashore, upon which the natives all crowded eagerly forward, and many of them drove down to the beach in their sledges. The noise and clamour that followed is hardly to be conceived; all were shouting and hallooing to each other with the utmost vociferation; the dogs were howling, and the men flogging them to preserve order. Amongst the presents which the captain offered them were small looking-glasses, in which they viewed their own faces with the most innocent delight.—For the first

moment they stood in silent astonishment, looking frequently to the back of the glass, as if expecting to see there the person whose face appeared to them on the other side.

"They now seemed to have gained so much confidence, that the captain invited some of of them to go on board his ship, to which they readily assented; one of them, to his great amusement, first addressing himself in a long speech to the vessel, as if he thought it a living creature that could answer him; and even addressed the Indian who acted as interpreter, to enquire what great creature it was, and whether it came from the sun or moon; the other endeavoured to make him understand it was a house, made of wood, but it was quite in vain, for from the flapping of the sails and the rocking motion of the vessel, not one of the party could be persuaded it was not alive.

"When on board, their astonishment was excited to the highest degree, but the quantity of wood appeared to be the chief object of surprise, their knowledge of timber being limited to the few heaths which their own country produced. The only thing which they seemed to regard with contempt was a little terrier dog, belonging to one of the sailors, being accustomed only to those of a large kind, which they train up to the chace and to draw their sledges. The captain now brought them down the cabin, where he gave them coffee and

MEETING OF ENGLISH AND ESQUIMAUX.

biscuit, which they appeared to relish exceedingly, and after returning upon deck they all joined in a dance, somewhat resembling a Scotch reel, which they kept up for a considerable length of time, with a glee and vivacity that afforded the highest amusement to the ship's crew. At length, evening coming on, they returned to shore.

"The Captain the next morning allowed one of the officers and some of the men to land, but with strict orders that no person should remain absent after dusk; at this time the cold was intense, the face of the country before us was one sheet of snow, the rocks along the shore were thickly incrusted with ice, and the icebergs floated on the sea all round, nor was there a vessel in sight except the whaler of our own company. Almost the only animal we had yet seen was a kind of seal called the walrhus, these are creatures, which are of an amphibious nature: they were seen swimming round the vessel, and scrambling up the rocks in great numbers. In size they are enormous, often being found eighteen feet in length, and their whole body large in proportion, except their head, which is small, and the neck very short. In the upper jaws are two long tusks bent downwards, which seemed to serve them principally for collecting their food, by scraping up the shell-fish from the bottom of the sea. The natives come down to the sea shore to catch them, when they lie on the beach at night. This,

however, they do not always easily effect, as it rarely happens that the whole herd go asleep together, one or more of them generally keeping watch while the others rest. The different parts of this animal when killed are applied to various useful purposes; the skin is cut into slices of two or three inches wide, and exported into England for glue, and to America for carriage traces. Its tusks are very much used as a substitute for ivory; but that which furnishes most profit to the Greenlander is the blubber. A large seal which would weigh from 1500 to 2000lbs. would yield about one barrel and a-half or two of oil. This kind of seal, and sometimes a few bears, straying along the coast, were the only animals we saw, except that now and then a few sea birds, like gulls, were seen at a distance, flying over the water.

The whole of the day on which the officers and men went ashore, passed without their returning; evening came on, and still no tidings of them; as it grew dark the anxiety of the remainder of the crew became extreme, and the whole night passed without any one of the party returning. Early the next morning the Captain judging it most probable, that having been induced to penetrate farther into the country than they intended, they had lost their way, sent a party of seamen on shore, with orders to ascend to the top of a neighbouring rising ground and there to erect a flag-staff, in the hope that should

they, in wandering about, come within view of it, it might serve to guide them to the shore. About mid-day, a number of men were seen coming down the side of the hill, who soon proved (to the great joy of their fellow seamen, who had almost despaired of ever seeing them again,) to be the party who had been absent. All had returned safe and well, except one man; *one* was still missing, of whom the others could give no further account, than that they had not proceeded far into the country before they came up with a hunting party of the natives, all in eager pursuit of a white bear, and having joined them, they were thus induced to proceed to such a distance that when the day began to decline, they found it impossible to retrace their way to the shore: during the whole night they wandered about, enduring the most extreme suffering from the cold: this man, who was now missing, they said had separated himself from them during the night, for when the day-light dawned he was no where to be found; they called loudly for him, wandered about in search of him, and no one could conceive what had become of him, except that one of the men remembered his having proposed some plan for his going before dawn to the top of a hill which lay before them, from whence he might, perhaps, be able to judge of what course they ought to take. From this scheme the other endeavoured to dissuade him; but no

no doubt remained now but that the poor fellow had been so imprudent as to persist in this undertaking, and had before now perished either by the cold, or been killed by some of the wild bears. The party who returned had suffered severely from the frost, their hands and feet being almost benumbed with the cold; had it not been for the delay occasioned by this man's absence, they might have returned several hours sooner; but they were unwilling to quit the spot where he had left them, until they found the day advancing without his return, and it was not until they had walked several miles, that they first perceived the flag-staff on the hill.

"The night of the second day was now fast approaching, and all hope of the sailor's return had been nearly abandoned, when one of the officers said he thought he could perceive some person coming along the shore. Upon this the Captain ordered out a boat, but charged the men to be cautious how they landed; in a short time afterwards the boat returned, and to the joy of all on board it brought back their lost companion. But what was their astonishment, when they found him with every appearance of being intoxicated; his speech was altered, he was almost unable to stand, nor did he seem to comprehend what was said to him; the men who fetched him in the boat, said they had almost to lift him into it to get him away, for he did not seem to recognize them, nor to understand what they

wanted with him. The Captain, however, who had had a good deal of experience of the effects of extreme cold, knew that this alone was sufficient to cause it, and he was the more convinced of it from the absolute impossibility of the man having obtained any spirituous liquors; his hands and face were dreadfully frost-bitten, and his feet also had suffered so severely, that he could scarcely walk. By degrees, as the natural warmth of the body was restored, his faculties returned, until at length the effects of the cold wore off completely, and he was then able to tell them, that having, according to his design, quitted his party before day-light, he had ascended to the top of the hill, from whence however, when morning came, he could discover nothing but one uninterrupted tract of barren country, and that in endeavouring to return to them he missed his way, narrowly escaped perishing in the drifted snow on the side of the hill, and finally wandered about without knowing where, when he unexpectedly found himself close to the sea shore.

"All concurred in describing the interior of the country as being almost totally devoid of vegetation, except for the few mosses and heaths that were here and there to be met with; but even these, however unserviceable they may appear in our eyes, the natives know how to apply to various useful purposes. The moss which is not close and short like sod, as that of our own country is, but grows to the length of

six or eight inches, they gather dry, and steep in seal oil, and thus make what serves them for comfortable and excellent fuel, as well as for light. The heath affords food and shelter to the hares and game, which the seamen said they saw in great numbers; and the stems of it tied together make a good handle for the whip with which the men drive their sledges. The habitation of the natives, the seamen described as being partly sunk under ground, a mode of defence from the weather not unusual in cold countries. They said they appeared to be a harmless simple race of people, to have no idea of war, and to live peaceably amongst themselves.

"While we were steering up Davis's Straits we were frequently visited by thick fogs, and so intense was the cold, that the moment this mist touched the ropes of the ship it froze, and left them in a short time covered with ice to the thickness of a man's arm, which at every motion of the vessel broke from them and fell on the deck in glittering fragments. In the intervals between the fogs, the weather was in general beautifully clear, which enabled us to discern at a vast distance the singular forms that the icebergs assumed; sometimes they were in the shape of trees, and a number of these together had all the appearance at a distance of a frozen forest; sometimes the ice formed one long line of a solid mass, like a wall, but more usually it was in detached blocks, several hundred feet

in length, which floated on the water like moving islands, varying in their colour, and sparkling with a lustre that in sunshine was almost dazzling.

"On quitting this coast we pursued our course northwards, desirous of steering for Lancaster Sound. A voyage of some days brought us to the entrance of this bay, but the passage was so obstructed by the accumulation of ice which we encountered, that we determined to pursue a northerly course no farther. It is remarkable, that the depth of water found here was greater than we had reached in any other part of Baffin's Bay; upon throwing out the sounding line it fell to the depth of 1005 fathoms, and took near *an hour* for all hands to pull it up again. But the most extraordinary circumstance that came under my observation in the course of this voyage was, that in these northerly regions, during a certain part of the year, the sun never sets, and we had now had a period of continued sun-shine for 1872 hours; towards the close of August this season passed away, and on the 24th we once more saw a sun-set, and I could not but think how times were changed with me, when I was now regarding as a novelty what in our own country passes almost unnoticed by every day."

It was in this manner that Philips endeavoured to profit by every means offered to him for extending his knowledge. It is true, he might have read all that is mentioned above,

but he was one of those who always thought it more satisfactory to obtain the information he wanted upon countries, by conversing with those that had actually travelled over them; for in this way, he could put questions upon such subjects as arose in his mind.—But to resume our narrative, his return to Quebec so close upon the winter, gave him an opportunity of witnessing some of the amusements of the season which are customary there; of these the principal one was driving on sledges on the snow, the roads being quite impassable for any other kind of vehicle. This sledge is a light carriage, open or covered, built somewhat like a chariot, and instead of being made with wheels, it is set upon two iron runners, shaped like a pair of skates, and is drawn by one or two horses. This machine glides over the snow with such swiftness and so little noise, that to prevent accident those who drive in them are obliged to give notice of their approach by bells fastened to the harness, or by sounding a horn before them.

Though the cold is so intense, the inhabitants defend themselves so well from it, by having their dress composed almost entirely of fur, that they don't suffer more from the intense cold than we often do on a severe winter's day; the doors and windows are doubled, so that but little cold air can enter, and every part of the house is warmed with stoves.

In Canada, the snow generally begins to fall in November, and ceases about the middle of Decem-

ber, when a hard frost sets in; the air then becomes clear, the weather is bright and cheerful, and the inhabitants, glad to escape from the confinement the snowing season subjects them to, mount their sledges, and pass their time in gaiety and amusements. This lasts for about six weeks, when the frost ceases and spring begins to appear; the sun shines more warmly, the snow melts rapidly, the fields become green, and in a few days winter has as completely disappeared as if it were so many months had elapsed.

The rivers which flow through the adjacent country, form some beautiful cataracts, which Philips lost no time in visiting, particularly the falls of the Montmorenci, a river which unites with the St. Lawrence about seven miles below Quebec, and the falls of the river Chaudiere, which lie not far distant. The country through which the Montmorenci passes is wild and thickly wooded, and its course lies over a bed of broken rocks till it comes to the brink of a precipice, down which it descends in one uninterrupted fall of 240 feet; but what is most remarkable in this cataract is, that the stream of water, being but scanty, instead of tumbling down the rocks with the usual impetuosity, appears to fall slowly; and at a distance, its white foam presents all the appearance of broken masses of snow rolling slowly and heavily down the declivity, but casting up at the bottom a

considerable spray, which, in bright sun-shine, glitters in a thousand colours.

As Philips was now about to enter the territories of the United States from the north, it will be for the satisfaction of the young reader to make some preliminary observations on the geography of the United States, in order that he may have a general idea of the great extent of territory that is known under this name as well as of the climate, manufactures, and commerce of a district in which so many of his countrymen have at different times settled, and whither so many are every year emigrating, in the hope of bettering their fortune; these observations also, wi l be useful on another account, for as it is impossible for our friend Philips, in whose company we have been so long travelling, to visit every part of the country, we shall from them be better able to understand the relative situation of the few places he was enabled to see.

The United States of America, then, are composed of eighteen provinces, or districts, each governed by its own peculiar institutions, but united together for the purpose of mutual support and advantage. Formerly, indeed, it contained but thirteen states; but almost every year it has added to the number in its union, and extended its territory westward into the uncultivated parts about the Mississippi and Missouri. These eighteen states are generally

on the Ohio, from grapes which grow naturally on its banks, and also from scions which have been brought from the wine countries in Europe. The maple sugar is prepared in the northern and middle states, and is deemed by many equal to that from the cane. Indeed it has been calculated that this article could be made in such quantity as not only to supply the market for home consumption, but to allow an annual exportation of 100,000 hhds.

But it must be obvious that it will be some time before American manufactures can arrive at perfection, so long as the population is so small when compared to the extent of territory over which they are spread, nearly 600,000,000 of acres. The towns along the eastern coast are, as has been mentioned, more thickly inhabited for the purposes of commerce; but every where the price of labour is so high, as of necessity to render their manufactures too dear for any but the home market. It is the high price of labour that holds out such inducements to emigrants from different countries to go and settle there; and yet many a man who quits his own country has been known to regret having done so.

It has been oftentimes the case that an ignorant man, not having money to carry him out, or to support himself and family on his arrival, has been been obliged to article himself to an employer for a certain number of years, and to work for his profit alone.

What is the man, so circumstanced, but a bond servant for so long a time; and would it not be much better for him to consider well before he takes such a step as to quit his home and friends in the hope of bettering his condition, and be afterwards disappointed. It is not, however, meant to say but that very many have got on well in America, but then it was by industry, and by saving up whatever remained over and above their necessary support—perhaps had they done so at home they need not have emigrated, for industry and prudence succeed in Ireland as in America. It was not, thought Philips, by working three days in a week, and giving up the other three to idleness and intoxication, like too many tradesmen at home, but by labouring late and early, and by making up a little store which shall give him the means of buying a spot of ground of his own.

Are there not many, it may be asked, who have brought themselves and their families to poverty by the want of diligent attention to their calling, and yet they are generally the last to accuse themselves—they lay the blame upon the times, upon the taxes, upon the dearness of provisions; they say America is a fine country, and they resolve to emigrate; whereas the real fact is, as Philips had abundant opportunities of observing, the idler and the drunkard are poor in America as well as in Ireland, and though wages are high, so are provisions also, so that a larger hire there will not go farther than a smaller hire

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Are there not many, it may be asked, who have brought themselves and their families to poverty by the want of diligent attention to their calling, and yet they are generally the last to accuse themselves—they lay the blame upon the times, upon the taxes, upon the dearness of provisions; they say America is a fine country, and they resolve to emigrate; whereas the real fact is, as Philips had abundant opportunities of observing, the idler and the drunkard are poor in America as well as in Ireland, and though wages are high, so are provisions also, so that a larger hire there will not go farther than a smaller hire

at home; unless, indeed, a man amends his life, but if he does this, perhaps he would find his trade as lucrative at home as any where else.—The fact therefore is, that industry and contentt ment are two great practical virtues incumben- upon all men, but especially essential to Christians; and there is, perhaps, no civilized country under the sun where they will not bring a man competence and respectability.

He had purposed going to visit Lake Champlain, and having crossed it, to continue his journey by Albany to New York and Philadelphia, but this intention he renounced, as the lake at the present season of the year is so completely frozen as to render it quite unnavigable; he changed his route therefore to Boston, and though his sledge carried him swiftly over the road, he had a journey of several days before he arrived there.

The town itself, which is the capital of the state of Massachusets, is peculiarly situated, being built on a peninsula of irregular form, which runs out into the bay, and is joined to the main land, at the southern extremity, by an isthmus full two miles long, though scarcely more than 700 yards broad, even at its greatest breadth. A second promontory of land, similar to that on which Boston is built, also runs out into the bay; on it stands Charlestown, which is connected with Boston by a wooden bridge, 1500 feet in length and about forty in breadth; but that which joins it to Cambridge Town is indeed

the wonder of bridge architecture, being 3483 feet in length, and standing on 180 piers. Boston harbour is capacious enough for 500 vessels to ride at anchor in good depth of water, whilst the entrance is so narrow as scarcely to admit of two ships coming in together. This town, which contains about 30,000 inhabitants, trades to almost every quarter of the world, it even carries on a considerable commerce with China, to which it brings valuable cargoes of furs, and barters them for the various commodities of that country. Boston has at different times suffered severely by fire, the houses being mostly built of wood; on one occasion, about thirty years ago, there were nearly 100 houses burnt at once; and in consequence of the number of lives that were lost, there was a regulation made, prohibiting the erection of wooden buildings of more than one story high, a measure which has considerably added to the uniformity as well as the security of the town. The principal manufactures carried on here are of rum, loaf-sugar, chocolate, and all kinds of rope and cordage, but there is also a very considerable one of pot and pearl ashes, which article, it may be necessary to inform the reader, is produced from the ashes of burnt wood, for which the extensive forests that cover the uncleared part of the country furnishes them with an ample supply of timber. The only difference between pot and pearl ashes is, that the latter is better prepared and dried, and of a finer quality than the other.

They are both very much used in various branches of trade; the glass maker, the bleacher, the soap maker, the dyer and the apothecary, would each be at a loss to complete several of their preparations without this valuable ingredient.

But this city did not possess so much interest, in the eyes of our traveller, by reason of its trade, as on account of having been the birth place of the celebrated Doctor Benjamin Franklin, to whom a monument has been erected. This man was bred a printer, and having come over to England, worked for a considerable time in a printing-office in London as a journeyman; not being at that time remarkable for any great talents, but possessing that industry and application to his business, which, when joined to sobriety and prudence, seldom fail to be successful in life. It would be long to detail the events of this extraordinary man's life, but it will suffice to say, that he was afterwards the author of several useful works, and raised himself to such eminence amongst his countrymen, that he was sent as an ambassador from the United States to France.

Anxious, however, to pursue his journey, Philips having fully gratified his curiosity, quitted Boston and set out on his road to New York, a distance of 210 miles; and, like Boston, situated on the eastern coast, at the confluence of two rivers, called the Hudson and East rivers, which rising eastward fall into the Atlantic

ocean. The province of which it is the capital, is considerably larger than Ireland, being 300 miles from north to south, and 350 from east to west. Its area is 55,000 square miles, and its population nearly 1,000,000.

The frost still obliged him to travel in his sledge, and the face of the country being still covered with snow, offered him so little variety of prospect, that he began to long for the sight of green fields and shady trees. His road lay nearly along the sea coast, and brought him through the towns of Plymouth, Hartford, and Newhaven. It was growing dusk as he entered New York late on a cold evening in January.

New York is remarkable for its numerous handsome public buildings, and also for its great trade, 300,000 tons of shipping belonging to the port. It may, therefore, be supposed a place of great wealth; and indeed the spirit with which works of utility are planned, and carried on, shews how anxious the inhabitants are for its improvement, and at the same time accounts for its flourishing condition. When Philips was there they had actually begun to cut a canal, which was to unite the Hudson river with Lake Erie eastward, a distance of 350 miles, and give that whole district the means of water carriage for bringing their commodities to New York. The estimated expense was £1,200,000.

The city, though connected by bridges with the main land, is situated on an island called New York Island, which is formed by two rivers, the

Hudson and East River, which here flow into the sea. The town extends along the Hudson about two miles, and along the other nearly four, its width being little more than one and a half mile even at its greatest breadth. Its principal street, called Broadway, is eight feet wide, and handsomely built, and runs for three miles in a straight line through the town, being terminated at the upper end by a handsome square, with the Governor's house in front. But travelling as Philips did, from town to town, their similarity soon made him cease to find any curiosity in them; and were it not for some commercial transactions, that obliged him to lengthen his stay there, he would have gladly resumed his journey. From this delay, however, he derived one advantage, that the frost had ceased, and the spring set in before he was again on the road.

East of New York there lies a very considerable island, called Long Island, 140 miles in length, and about ten in breadth. This island is thickly inhabited, and very highly cultivated, and presents a very beautiful appearance from sea to vessels coming into New York harbour.

Quitting New York at six o'clock in the morning, he embarked in a small steam-boat which took him to Elizabeth Town, across the harbour, a distance of sixteen miles, in an hour and a half. He there took the stage coach for Philadelphia, and passed through the town of Trenton, remarkable for having a very sin-

gular wooden bridge across the Delaware, of which the carriage-way is made underneath the arches, and is supported by heavy iron chains, let down to it from the top of the bridge. There is, no doubt, a great waste of timber by this mode of building it; but in America, where that is so plenty, it is no object to save it, and the road-way is preserved quite level, as they thus avoid the ascent and descent which it otherwise must necessarily have had. From this town nothing particularly worthy of his notice occurred until he arrived at Philadelphia, which is 90 miles distant from New York, and stands at the head of a noble bay, formed by the mouth of the river Delaware, on the west bank of which the town stands; it is 126 miles from the Atlantic, by the course of the river and bay, being navigable, however, the whole way by ships of the largest tonnage. The shores on each side are richly wooded, and scattered over with neat farm houses and villages. Few cities can be compared with it in point of beauty, the cleanliness of its streets, as well as the regularity with which they are built. Of these the principal one is 100 feet wide, and the others vary from fifty to eighty; all are well paved, and the foot-way on each side is formed of red brick instead of flags. The houses are brick also, though for the most part they are faced with a kind of white marble which abounds in that part of America, and with which most of the public buildings of the city are built. Places of wor-

ship of all kinds are numerous, but of these none gave Philips more pleasure than the African church for the use of the negroes; and here these poor creatures come in great numbers, eager to receive religious instructions, and a clergyman of their own colour attends there regularly.

There are few instances of a city rising by such rapid progress to so great a height of prosperity as Philadelphia, an old man there told him, that he remembered when there were but three carriages in the whole town, and now the streets are full of them; and he likewise said, that at so low a state was their commerce then, that two or three vessels at most arrived yearly with the manufactures of Great Britain; while at present the trade is so much encreased, that some thousands of ships go out of the port yearly to different quarters of the world, and as many in proportion come into the harbour, so that Philadelphia, may be considered as one of the most flourishing cities in America.

But no part of the city did Philips visit with so much interest as the prison, which stands as an example of the advantages that may be derived from the wise and judicious treatment of criminals. Nothing can be better contrived for this purpose, than the plan on which the jail is built; it is spacious and airy, and has extensive yards attached to it, well paved and walled round. Such of the prisoners as have been convicted of any great crime, are put into solitary confinement, from which upon a course of

good conduct they are relieved, by being given employment in their own cells; or after a time, are allowed to work in the room with some of the other prisoners, who are all granted more or less indulgence according to the nature of their offence, and to their conduct in the prison during the term of their confinement. All are well fed, well clothed, and treated with great strictness, but with great humanity. They are employed in working at different trades; one room being set apart for tailoring, another for shoe-making, another for basket-work, and so on; and in the yards are stone-cutters, smiths, nailers, and other tradesmen who require room for their work; this part of the prison presenting more the appearance of a manufactory than a place of confinement; and many are the instances of prisoners being dismissed, so much reformed from their evil ways, that they afterwards became good and useful members of society.

But although Philips found so much in the habits and manners of the people of Philadelphia to admire and approve, there was nothing which raised them so high in his estimation above other parts of the United States, as the law which had been framed there abolishing slavery, although he found that in some of the neighbouring states it still prevailed to a very great extent. Can any thing be more surprising, thought he, than that men so ardent in the love of liberty, as the Americans, should be the means, in any degree, of countenancing the slave trade. This city

was founded 240 years ago, by the celebrated William Penn, who having received from Charles the Second a grant of land on the western side of the river Delaware, formed it into a province and named it Pennsylvania. The wisdom and judgment of this great man's character were eminently shewn in his plan for building the city, and his laws for the government of his province; and even at this day his memory is held there in the highest esteem.

The reader will understand that the monarch whom we have mentioned, in common with other European princes, exercised this right of bestowing lands in America in virtue of England having first discovered that part of the North American shore. But William Penn was too upright to suppose that this gave him any power to drive out the natives by force of arms; they were the original owners of the soil, and justice told him that he had no claim upon them for a single acre, unless they voluntarily, and for a sufficient compensation, made over to him their property. He therefore invited the Indians to treat with him amicably, and proposed that they should send some of their number for the purpose of settling the terms, on which they would transfer the land to him. Several came accordingly, and an arrangement was soon made, for one side wished for nothing but what was equitable, and the Indians, inhabiting a vast extent of country, of which they cultivated but little, living chiefly by hunting, were easily

induced to resign the entire province, and to retire westward into the more inland parts of the continent.

On the day that he concluded his agreement for the lands, a great concourse of the neighbouring tribes came down into the province, and assembled under the spreading boughs of a large elm tree that grew on the banks of the river; nor could any thing be more singular than the appearance they presented, with their dark countenances and brandished arms, moving in vast swarms in the depth of the woods, which then overshadowed the whole of what is now a highly cultivated country. On the other hand, William Penn, quite unarmed, and with the moderate attendance of a few friends, advanced to meet them in his usual plain dress, distinguished from his companions only by wearing a blue sash of silk net-work, (which, it is said, is still in preservation) and by having in his hand a roll of parchment on which was written the articles of the treaty. As soon as he drew near, the whole body of Indians threw down their weapons, and seating themselves on the ground listenened in silence while he addressed them in the following words: "The Great Spirit who made you and me, who rules the heaven and the earth, and who knows the innermost thoughts of man, knoweth also that I and my friends have a hearty desire to live in peace and friendship with you, and to serve you with the utmost of my power. It is not our custom to use hostile weapons against our fellow-creatures, (this excellent man

was a Quaker) and for this reason, we are come unarmed. Our object is not to do injury, and thus provoke the Holy Spirit, but to do good. We are, therefore, met on the broad pathway of faith and good will, so that no advantage is to be taken on either side, but all is to be openness, brotherhood, and love."

Having thus spoken, he unrolled the parchment, and by means of an interpreter, read to them article by article, the several conditions of the treaty, and among other things, faithfully promised them, that they should not be molested in their lawful pursuits within their own territories, and that they were to have full liberty to do all things for the improvement of their grounds and the support of their families.

He then paid them for the land, distributed some presents amongst them, and the Indians having pledged themselves to live in love and friendship with William Penn, so long as the sun and moon should endure, he delivered up the parchment to their chief, and took his leave, happy in having made the first treaty ever concluded betwen savages and Christians that was not confirmed by an oath; thus leaving to man a striking example how easy it is for those who are really sincere and friendly in their views, to live in peace with those who are supposed to be fierce and faithless.

The tree under which this treaty was made is still standing, at a short distance from the town, and few strangers come to Philadelphia without visiting it.

After making the necessary stay at Philadelphia, our traveller set out on his further journey through the United States, and determined to make his next visit to Washington, he travelled in one of those carriages called a light waggon, and found it, though a rumbling heavy machine, stout and strong enough for the rugged roads it had to contend with.

The country through which they first travelled was the province of New Jersey, and from thence they passed into that of Maryland; on quitting Philadelphia their road led through a well cultivated country, which, however, to Philips had yet a bare appearance, from the custom the inhabitants have of cutting down all the trees near the houses; this they do, not only for the value of the timber, but also for the sake of clearing the ground for the plough. The want of hedges also adds to the nakedness of the prospect; for the fields are divided only by a rude paling, which, to those acquainted with the neat hedge-rows of Ireland, had a very bleak and unsheltered appearance.

They crossed the Schuylkill river by one of those floating bridges which are sometimes to be met with in America, and of which there are three over this river. These are made of large stems of trees laid by side, and chained firmly together the length of the beams, forming the breadth of the bridge; over these is placed a second layer of the same construction, the

whole is then boarded like the floor of a room, and a railing is put upon each side. This being made long enough to extend from bank to bank of the river, is fastened firmly at each end, and floats on the water like a raft; it is capable of bearing the weight of carriages and horsemen, though it perceptibly sinks in some degree as they pass over it. The only danger to which these floating bridges are liable, arises from the shoals of ice in the winter, which comes down the stream with such force as would almost overthrow the strongest stone bridge. Philips's road from from hence lay through a wooded and fertile country; and passing through the town of ofWilmington and the village of Havre de Grace, he had his first opportunity of seeing the river Susquehannah, which is here a mile wide; its banks are fine rising grounds, richly wooded, and the whole scene, as he passed it, was enlivened hy the multitude of wild fowl that were sporting on the water. As there was no bridge on this part of the river, they passed it in ferry boats, and resuming their seats in the carriage, were jostled over rugged roads, through a barren and uninteresting country to Baltimore; at times the cuts in the roads being so deep that they almost despaired of extricating the wheels from them; and to guard against this danger, the driver always took care to warn them when the carriage was about to sink to the right side or to the left, by calling out to the gentlemen,

that they should lean towards the other, in order thus to balance the vehicle. When Philips reached Baltimore he found letters awaiting him from Europe, which required him to hasten his arrival in Washington; he therefore stopped no longer here than to admire its noble harbour, capable of containing 2000 sail of merchantmen, and situated at the head of the river and bay of the Chesapeak, 270 miles from its mouth; in two days, therefore, he was on his journey for Washington, which is 50 miles distant. A city of which he had heard so much since his arrival in America, that he expected to find it at least equal to Philadelphia. But instead of the handsome well built town that he looked forward to see, he found what appeared to him more like a number of villages scattered through a wood. for such is the scene that an unfinished American city always presents, from the custom of first building houses at the extreme ends of the portion of land marked out for the city; and these lying at wide distances from each other, as long as the intermediate ground remains unoccupied, they appear more like detached villages, than the separate parts of one town. Washington stands on the river Potomac, which takes its rise in the Alleganny mountains, and after winding through the country for an extent of 400 miles, falls into the river Chesapeak, being navigable, however, from its junction with that river, full 190 miles above the city.

The mountains in the vicinity of the city

afford the traveller many specimens of natural wonders. The principal of these is a rock bridge, which appears as if an earthquake had suddenly cleft a mountain asunder, leaving only a single rock connecting the two parts, and which arches across from one to the other, at a height of 240 feet. This rock is all one solid stone, forty feet thick, but part of this thickness is formed by a coat of earth, which extends along the top of the rock, and affords growth to many large trees, principally cedars and pines. A guide whom Philips employed, now led them by a winding foot-path to the top; one side of the bridge is protected by a parapet-wall, but the other is open and affords no kind of protection from the deep abyss which lies beneath, through which there flows a loud and rapid torrent. There is a road made along the bridge and waggons pass it in safety, the breadth being no less than 80 feet. Having quited the Rock Bridge, Philips set out on horseback on an excursion of about 50 miles distance to the northward, behind a range of hills called the Blue Mouutains, to see a large cavern usually known by the name of Maddison's Cave. The guide entered with a lighted torch, and led Philips by a long passage into a smaller cavern, or chamber, which the guide called the Sound Room, from the great echo which is to be heard there. Returning from this chamber, the guide conducted him through a long broad passage, from whence they scrambled down a steep slippery descent into another

cavern, more spacious than the former. The petrifications formed by the water trickling from above, hung down from the roof like icicles. This, Philips had observed all through the cavern, but in that part of it which he now entered, their appearance was particularly striking, being nearly a foot in length, and in such numbers, that as the torch light gleamed on them, the whole roof glittered with their brilliancy, while, at the same time, similar petrifactions had formed upon the floor of the cave, and seemed as if rising to meet those which hung from above. Evening was coming on as he and his guide quitted the cave, and he began to feel his journey over the mountains lonely enough; however, it was shortly after enlivened by his falling into the company of a young man, who was, like himself, a traveller, and whom curiosity had likewise led some time before to visit Maddison's Cave. The night came on as they rode together, and as there was no appearance of any kind of dwelling where they could rest till morning, they determined to continue their journey on through the night. The night was dark, and the tired travellers were anxiously looking out for a resting place, when they suddenly saw a light glimmering through the trees at some distance. Delighted at the prospect of finding some dwelling near them, they quickened their pace, but what was their astonishment on finding that it moved from them, then drew near, and at length vanished entirely from their sight.

Whilst they were considering the cause of this extraordinary appearance, they suddenly perceived the same light in a bush close by them, and advancing towards it, found that it proceeded from a swarm of insects called the fire-fly, so named from their power of giving out a light from their body. This fly abounds in the woods of America at night, though seldom seen in the day; in size and colour it most resembles a large moth, though the form of the body is not so long and tapering; the light comes from under the wings, and when the flies rise in the air, they look like sparks appearing and disappearing every moment. The night passed without any further adventure; towards morning they reached a cottage, where they rested themselves and their horses, and arrived late the next day at Washington. This city affording as we have said but little variety to a stranger, and Philips having now visited every thing in its vicinity worthy of attention, he once more resumed his journey.

From Washington he took his road southward into the state of Virginia, after coasting along the Maryland shore of the Potomac. This tract is flat, sandy, and dreary; the houses in many places have an ancient appearance, and are built with brick and stone, but most of the modern ones are only of wood, and have always a pent-house in the front, which is often carried all round the dwelling, and affords a shady retreat in the heat of the day from the scorching rays of the sun, which in bright weather are

intense at noon, though the atmosphere is as variable here as in other parts of America, often changing from heat to cold several times in the same day. In the centre of those houses which belong to the better class, is generally a hall or saloon, furnished like a parlour with sofas, &c. where the family pass much of their time, for the purpose of enjoying a thorough current of air. Nothing is to be seen, for miles together, but extensive plains, which have been exhausted by the culture of tobacco, this being one of the staple commodities of that part of the country.

After a short stay in Norfolk, Philips took his road, still southwards, through the states of North and South Carolina, of which the country is for the most part low and marshy. This kind of soil, however, being favourable to the growth of rice, the cultivation of that grain is here carried on to a more considerable extent than in any other part of the United States: for this purpose the ground is turned up into furrows, in the months of April and May; women are employed to sow the seed, and the negro men follow and cover it over with earth. The plant shoots up in ten or twelve days, and when it has grown about six inches high, a stream of water is conducted to the top of the field, which is generally a falling ground, and allowed to flow over it in such abundance that little more than the tops of the blades can be seen above it. In a few weeks the water is turned off, to give the negroes an opportunity of weeding the rice;

when that is done, the field is again covered with water till the crop is ripe, which is known by the yellow colour of the ear and the hardness of the stem. When reaped, it is kept in stacks till winter, but a great deal of hard labour is necessary before it becomes fit for exportation. After being sifted through a large sieve, raised from the ground on pillars, the outer husk is next taken off by a hand mill, and lastly, the whole is winnowed and beaten with clubs, to take off the inner husk; the larger grains are then sorted from the small, and packed in casks for sale.—This process Philips had frequent opportunities afterwards of observing, as he travelled along the sea coast, through the towns of Savannah and Sunbury. to the town of St. Augustine, in the state of Florida, where he hoped to embark for Europe.

We have now accompanied Philips through a course which has been undertaken by few.—From the Gulf of Mexico to Lake Superior, from the mouth of the river St. Lawrence on the East, to that of the Columbia on the West, he had seen whatever was remarkable, and he now therefore naturally began to think of returning home. "Surely," said he, as he retraced his journeyings on the map, "I may well be satisfied with having traversed, in so many directions, this immense continent, and may now decide on giving my whole attention to business. When at home, and possessed of those comforts which home alone can give, how apt are we to under-

value what we enjoy, and to imagine any change to be an improvement! but let a man travel as much as I have done, and I am mistaken if he will not feel as I do, a longing desire to sit down once more at his own fire-side, surrounded by those who speak the same language, and enjoying that security which equal laws, and advanced civilization alone can live.

St. Augustine indeed, was not the most favourable port he could have chosen for his embarkation, being engaged in trade only with the adjacent coasts of the United States; but to his great joy he found that a merchantman laden with a cargo of Virginia tobacco, had put in there some days before, under a stress of weather, and was on the point of continuing her course to Liverpool, the gale having moderated. In this vessel, therefore, he soon engaged a passage; and so anxious was he to avail himself of the opportunity of revisiting home, that in 12 hours he had laid in his sea store and packed his luggage.

Thus then ends the account of Philips' travels and observations in North America, for the weather was fortunately mild, and the voyage returning presented no fresh incident worthy of mention. On the 25th day after quitting St. Augustine he had the inexpressible happiness of discovering the shores of his native land, near Cape Clear, from the mast head, where he had regularly every morning for the preceding week taken his station. We have already said that the vessel's destination was Liverpool, but a

very little persuasion to the Captain, and the promise of a handsome reward to the men, easily obtained for him the great favour of being put ashore, along with his luggage, near Kinsale, in the county of Cork; and from thence the mail soon conveyed him to his native city, where his friends received him with the kindest welcome.

Let us hope that the reader does not part from Mr. Philips without regret. If he has followed him in his wanderings he must have learned at least one lesson from the perusal —We have all our allotted duties in life, and if they call us into foreign lands we should not hesitate to obey, but whether we travel into Africa or America, through the burning deserts of the one or along the mighty rivers of the other, we travel but to little purpose unless we return with increased relish for home and its gratifications, and increased thankfulness to Providence for having placed us in a country where it must be our own faults if we do not enjoy every blessing which a mild climate, a fertile soil, and wise laws can bestow.

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